

ardot writes to
andela to save
elephants

ANNISBURG (AFP) — A South African
ident Nelson Mandela
the killing of
hants and rhinoceros
singlet National Park
ment from her founder
said here Tuesday. The
er French actress, who
dedicates herself to
noting animal welfare,
se out against the hunt
of the white rhinoceros
the killing of elephants
south Africa's biggest
life reserve. She wrote
all Africa has been
ble for its eagerness to
unch the ivory market
have succeeded in
ening hunting for the
rhinoceros, thus con-
aining the specie. "I do
my utmost to avoid
same thing happening
the elephants," Kruger
ional Park calls several
dred elephants each
to avoid overpopula-
which damages the
national parks' man-
ment launched an inter-
national appeal for fund-
tember to pay for train-
ing excess elephants
r parks.

fourists barred
from Chinese
monkey island

ING KONG (AFP) —
spread of a strange
disease has forced the
hories to close a na-
tional island in south-
east China. The island
is a natural preserve
for a rare species of
macaque monkeys.
The report said the
disease had killed
several monkeys and
others were showing
signs of illness. The
island is a popular
tourist attraction and
the closure has caused
concern among local
residents.

Charlie Chaplin's
on plans cultural
centre in Soweto

ANNISBURG (AFP) —
English actor and film
director Charlie Chaplin
is planning to build a
cultural centre in
Soweto, South Africa.
The centre is planned
on a site in the town
which was once the
home of the famous
comedian. Chaplin
has lived in Soweto
for many years and
has a large collection
of his personal items.
The centre is planned
to be a place where
people can learn about
his life and work.

Million dollar cat
stolen at gas
station

HELSINKI (AFP) — A
Rembrandt painting
worth a million dollars
was stolen from a
museum in Helsinki
on Tuesday night. The
painting was a copy of
a famous work by the
Dutch master. It was
stolen from a display
case in the museum.
The police are looking
for the thief and have
offered a reward of
50,000 euros for
information.

Clinton lauds successes in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton lauded U.S. efforts to bring Arabs and Israelis closer to reaching a peace agreement Friday, citing determined diplomacy and military might as key to U.S. foreign policy successes. "The credit here belongs to the peacemakers, but we should all be proud that at critical moments along the way our efforts helped to make the difference between failure and success," Mr. Clinton told a symposium at the Freedom House policy thinktank in Washington. The president cited "persistent diplomacy and the measured use of the world's strongest military" as the formula for Washington's foreign policy successes. The president, who has been criticised as weak on foreign policy, also applauded recent successes in Bosnia, Haiti and Northern Ireland and warned against the Republican majority's move towards isolationism. "We must stand for opportunity and responsibility, in a world where the dividing line between domestic and foreign policy is increasingly blurred," he said.

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Indonesian team arrives today

AMMAN (Petra) — An Indonesian parliamentary delegation arrives here today on a week-long visit to Jordan for talks with the Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament on parliamentary relations. The delegation will also meet with ministers of foreign affairs, transport, planning, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and will visit Islamic, cultural and archaeological sites in Jordan.

Writer Fawakhiri passes away

AMMAN (Petra) — Renowned Jordanian writer Mustafa Abdul Karim Al Fawakhiri passed away on Friday at the age of 63, leaving behind a wealth of writings and books covering cultural, intellectual and philosophical subjects. Fawakhiri will be missed as leading Arab and Jordanian writer. Fawakhiri was a member of the Jordanian Writers Association and the Arab Writers Federation. He has played a leading role in the establishment of associations and unions in Jordan.

Egypt 'to' confront any attempt to split Iraq

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's foreign minister urged the United Nations to lift crushing sanctions immediately against Iraq and promised Egypt would resist any attempt to divide the country. Foreign Minister Amr Musa warned other countries not to intervene in Iraq's internal affairs and said the fate of Saddam Hussein was a matter that should be left to the Iraqi people. "We will stand very firmly against any plan to divide Iraq or redraw its map," Mr. Musa said in comments published Friday in the London-based Al Hayat newspaper. "Any conspiracy, manoeuvre or plan to divide it will be faced steadfastly by all of us (Arabs), especially Egypt," he said. Mr. Musa said relations with Iraq should be normalised regardless of who is in power and that U.N. sanctions must be lifted immediately because Iraq has met U.N. resolutions. "Egypt's objective handling of the issue of Iraq has nothing to do with personal feelings," he told the newspaper.

Two Palestinians shot in W. Bank

NABLUS (AFP) — Militants of the Fateh faction shot and wounded two other Palestinians in the town of Nablus, on the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources said Friday. Fawaz Zeid, 50, and Hashem Al Sarkaji, 34, were taken to hospital with three bullets each in the legs after the shooting on Thursday night. The Hawks, military wing of Fateh, said it carried out the attack because they were alleged collaborators with Israeli troops.

Jordan deports Iraqi opposition activist

AMMAN (AFP) — Jordan deported an Iraqi opposition activist to Turkey shortly after his arrival at Amman airport, informed sources said Thursday. Mashaan Al Juburi, a former bodyguard of President Saddam Hussein, who has lived in London since defecting after the 1991 Gulf war, was sent to Turkey after arriving here on Wednesday, the sources said. They gave no reason for the action against Mr. Juburi, who last month presented himself as a spokesman for former Iraqi Interior Minister Hussein Kamel, the president's son-in-law who defected to Jordan in August. General Kamel subsequently denied that Mr. Juburi was his spokesman.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي.

Knesset passes self-rule deal, but snags hit prisoner release

Rabin secures 61-59 majority; 1,200 detainees to be freed soon, but 4 women to remain in jail

Combined agency dispatches

THE ISRAELI parliament (Knesset) on Friday approved the Sept. 28 agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to expand autonomy to the West Bank, but the implementation of the accord hit immediate snags when the release of four Palestinian women from jails was blocked.

An Israeli cabinet minister said Israel will release some 1,200 Palestinian security prisoners over the next few days in a first move to implement the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement. But four Palestinian women will not be released, the government said.

The PLO condemned the decision as a violation of the accord, which was narrowly approved in parliament, and called for the release of all 28 Palestinian women held by Israel.

A ministerial committee, chaired by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said 22 female detainees would be released on Sunday and some 1,100 men on Tuesday,

Israeli radio said.

It added that they would have to stay in the Palestinian self-rule areas, which are to be extended on the West Bank under the Sept. 28 accord signed in Washington. The ministerial committee on the prisoners blanked the release of two Palestinian women from the West Bank jailed for their involvement in murder.

President Ezer Weizman earlier on Friday ruled out the planned release of another two women jailed for murder, in cases under his jurisdiction rather than tried in military courts or the occupied territories.

"It's the prerogative of a head of state to grant or refuse a pardon. The government cannot force his hand," said Mr. Rabin's spokeswoman Aliza Goren.

She said the ministerial committee also decided "not to free at this stage prisoners who have in the past killed Israeli civilians or soldiers," meaning another two women could be kept in jail.

Under a barrage of Palestinian criticism, a meeting was arranged between Israeli

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Saturday in Gaza to try to defuse the issue.

Mr. Arafat insisted on all 28 women being freed, an issue which almost derailed the tough negotiations in the Egyptian resort of Taba last month that led to the West Bank deal.

"To keep even a single woman prisoner is in violation of the accord and shakes the confidence of the Palestinians," said Hisham Abdul Razzak, a Palestinian official in charge of the detainees' file.

The West Bank accord states that "all female detainees and prisoners shall be released in the first stage of release."

Israel's decision to hold back several women came within hours of parliament approving the accord by a 61-59 vote and followed a right-wing rally of more than 10,000 people on Thursday night to denounce the extension of self-rule.

Mr. Weizman ruled out an amnesty for Inaam Jabbari, 24, who was found guilty of

killing a Jew in Jerusalem and jailed for seven years, and May Al Ghusseini, also 24, jailed for life for attacking an Israeli and murdering a Palestinian.

After a stormy 15-hour debate the 120-member Knesset voted to ratify the accord signed last month in Washington, underlining strong divisions in Israel and growing opposition to Mr. Rabin as he gears up for elections in November 1996.

Thousands of right-wing Israelis besieged the parliament building after a torch-lit procession through Jerusalem. Many of the protesters chanted "Rabin is a traitor" and some held up an effigy of the prime minister dressed as a Nazi stormtrooper.

"It is a small majority because two members of the Labour Party betrayed their mandate and voted against the government," Mr. Rabin told reporters.

"I deplore it, but since we have the majority we'll continue with the implementation of the agreement... in the West Bank."

(Continued on page 7)



UNSAVOURY END: A French mercenary bids farewell to a rebel Comorian soldier outside a military base in the capital Moroni, hours before turning themselves in to French special forces, which stormed the eastern African archipelago on Wednesday to end a coup d'état led by French veteran mercenary Bob Denard (see story on page 5 and more photos on page 12)

Egypt, Libya to discuss expulsion of Palestinians

SALLOUM (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa went to Tripoli on Friday to meet Colonel Moammar Qadhafi in a bid to solve the crisis of Libya's mass expulsion of Palestinians, a border official here said.

The trip by Mr. Musa followed appeals by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for a stronger Arab position to stop the Libyan leader's campaign and increased calls by Libya for Egypt to open its borders to Palestinians to "return to Palestine."

An official at the Egyptian border post of Salloom told AFP Mr. Musa crossed into Libya on Friday heading for Tobruk, from where he would fly on to Tripoli to meet Colonel Qadhafi.

Mr. Musa announced on Thursday that Egypt would send an envoy to Libya "to examine the current situation on the Egyptian-Libyan border and other topics," but did not name the official.

The Foreign Ministry was unable to confirm that Mr.

Musa had left for Libya. Reuter reported that the Egyptian envoy was Information Minister Sawaf Al Sharif.

Mr. Sherif crossed the border at Salloom en route to Tripoli where he will hold talks with Col. Qadhafi. Reuters said.

Some 900 Palestinians have been trapped in a tent camp in no man's land between the two countries since being thrown out of Libya and then refused entry by Egypt.

Col. Qadhafi has launched a campaign to expel the 30,000 Palestinians living in his country in a bid to swamp the West Bank and Gaza Strip with returnees and show the "failure" of Israeli-PLO accords to create a viable homeland there.

"We have asked" Libya to stop the expulsions," Mr. Musa told the Arab daily Al Hayat on Friday. "And of course our efforts are continuing."

"But it seems there are other considerations, namely the idea that it is now time for them (the Palestinians) to re-

turn to their land. So we're dealing with that now as a humanitarian matter. We hope this matter will end soon," he said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met briefly with PLO head Yasser Arafat in Cairo on Thursday to discuss the Libyan expulsions.

The Palestinian representative to the Arab League in Cairo, Mohammad Sobeih, told AFP the PLO sought a "stronger Arab position" against the Libyan campaign.

"We would like Arab intervention and intensified contacts with the Libyans," Mr. Sobeih said, adding that PLO head Yasser Arafat had also asked Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to mediate directly with Libya.

Mr. Sobeih said Mr. Arafat did not discuss with Mr. Mubarak opening Egypt's border with Libya to allow the trapped Palestinians to enter.

(Continued on page 7)

Explosion injures 13 in Paris

PARIS (Agencies) — A gas canister loaded with nuts and bolts exploded in a garbage can in southern Paris on Friday, injuring 13 people, officials said, as France faced a wave of terrorist bombings.

Two of the injured were listed in serious condition, police and fire officials said. Casualties could have been worse if a mailman had not spotted a suspicious bag and alerted police, who cordoned off the area.

Several cars were also damaged in the blast, which occurred at about 4 p.m. (1500 GMT) on the Avenue d'Italie, a main artery in southeastern Paris near the Place d'Italie, bordering Paris's Chinatown.

"The explosion was very strong and the police came very quickly," said Roger Checlier, owner of a shoe store about 50 metres from the blast site.

A crowd of about 500 people gathered around red-and-white police tape that blocked off the bombing site on the tree-lined boulevard, where banners advertised a fall festival. About a dozen police and rescue vehicles filled the street.

It was the seventh bombing or attempted bombing since July 25, when a gas canister similar to the one on Friday exploded in a regional subway in the heart of Paris, killing seven people.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But officials have linked the bombings to Algerian Muslim militants targeting France for its financial support of Algeria's military-installed government (see page 12).

French media noted the blast occurred across from a subway stop, Maison Blanche, the same name as the bus stop where France's no. 1 suspect in the string of bombings was killed by police in a gunfight one week ago.

The blast also occurred the same day family and friends buried the suspect, Khalel Kelkal, a 24-year-old Algerian, in a Lyon suburb.

Kelkal's death has angered many who contend police gunned him down only because he was Muslim, and rioting left more than 100 cars destroyed in poor, mainly immigrant suburbs in the Lyon area.

As 300 mourners followed

(Continued on page 7)

Reports conflict over PNA claim of deal with Hamas

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The militant group Hamas has tentatively agreed to stop launching attacks on Israelis from Palestinian self-ruled areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, officials in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) said Friday.

But a spokesman for Hamas in Amman denied the report.

The pledge is part of a draft agreement between Hamas and PNA President Yasser Arafat on the terms of the group's future political participation, said PLO and police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Irdeineh confirmed that a draft has been worked out and that it contains the "basis for Hamas' co-existence with the self-rule government."

Mr. Abu Irdeineh did not discuss details of the draft and was evasive when asked whether Hamas had promised to refrain from violence. "This is the closest we have come to an agreement," said a Hamas source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Abu Irdeineh said a four-member Hamas delegation has travelled to other Arab countries to get the draft approved by the Hamas leadership abroad. The delegation's destination was Sudan and the group included Ismail Haniyeh and Khaled Hindil, two pragmatists involved in recent negotiations, Palestinian officials said.

Hamas spokesman in Amman Ibrahim Ghosheh said that Hamas would never commit itself to renouncing any form to military struggle against the Israeli occupation which he said was the movement's "strategic option."

"The meeting in Khartoum is one between the Hamas leadership and some independent-thinking members of the movement who are trying to bring us and the authority together for a dialogue," Mr. Ghosheh said.

"What is taking place in Khartoum is an internal dialogue among Hamas members and not a dialogue between Hamas and the authority," he added.

He said Mr. Hindi and Mr. Haniyeh do not represent Hamas and are only on a mission to try to reopen a dialogue between the PNA and the Hamas which was originally scheduled for June upon the invitation of Sudan's Islamic leader Hassan Toubari.

"They volunteered to become the go-between between us and the authority," Mr. Ghosheh explained. "They said they believed that the situation has become so difficult in the Gaza Strip that the movement should consider taking steps to avoid direct confrontation at this time."

"They wanted to see what chances there were to limit the chances of direct conflict (between Hamas and the authority)," he added.

"They have now gone to Khartoum to meet with Hamas leaders and to see what we can do."

Mr. Ghosheh said that Hamas would only be willing to consider any type of dialogue with the PNA if the

(Continued on page 7)

Fighting rages in Bosnia for pre-ceasefire territory

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. MEDIATOR Richard Holbrooke spurred Bosnian and Serb political leaders on Friday to meet their ceasefire promises while their armies fought for a last round of battlefield gains.

The Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) clawed back territory in northwest Bosnia but U.N. peacekeepers said government forces were defending conquests they made in September with Croatian artillery support.

The ceasefire starts on Oct. 10 if Bosnian Serbs meet demands by the Bosnian government to restore Sarajevo's gas and electricity supplies and open roads to the besieged Muslim enclave of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia.

With land holdings of crucial importance to all sides, fighting could last right up to the deadline.

Serb media reported the BSA recaptured the west Bosnian town of Kijuc, one of the key gains made by allied Bosnian-Croat forces during an offensive in

September. U.N. spokeswoman Myriam Sochaki said Bosnian government 5th Corps troops were fighting back to tighten their grip on Bosanska Krupa which they also took last month.

Significant gains would give the Serbs more leverage in peace talks due to begin in the United States around Oct. 25.

Mr. Holbrooke reported on the outcome of his shuttle diplomacy which led to the ceasefire agreement at a meeting in Rome of the big power contact group leading international mediation in the 3½-year-old Bosnian war.

He stressed his immediate priority was getting the Serbs to meet the Bosnian government's conditions.

"We have to get the Gorazde road open. We have to get the gas and electricity in Sarajevo turned on right away and we have to get the ceasefire going right away," he told reporters.

U.N. official William Eagleton said the problems sur-

rounding the restoration of Sarajevo utilities, cut off by the Serbs last April, are "more technical than political."

Gas should reach the city by Oct. 9 and one of its two main incoming electricity lines from Serb territory was ready for service although no current was flowing.

The U.N. was asking the Croat HVO militia to remove mines laid around three damage electricity pylons so that it could send engineers to carry out repairs which could take two days, Mr. Eagleton said.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton said the United States is obligated to send troops to enforce the hoped-for peace agreement in Bosnia and vowed to seek the support of Congress.

In a major foreign policy speech, Mr. Clinton said only NATO can preserve effectively a fragile peace in Bosnia, "and as NATO's leader, the United States must do its part and send in troops to

(Continued on page 7)

Syria maintains hard line in talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria marked the anniversary of its 1973 war with Israel on Friday by saying the struggle with the Jewish state was still on.

Hikmat Al Shihabi, chief-of-staff of the Syrian army and a negotiator in peace talks with Israel, told the official newspaper Tishreen the conflict would remain as long as Israel did not fully withdraw from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon.

He also condemned Israel's peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan and said there was "no war without Syria and no peace without Syria."

"The struggle between Arabs and Israel has not ended yet and will not end because the struggle does not end until all its causes are eliminated, that happens by full pullback," General Shihabi said.

Syria's Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa met Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington on Thursday in the first high-level meeting between Syria and the United States since Israel and the PLO signed peace last week.

But hopes expressed by U.S. officials that the latest accord would "spur more progress in stalled Israeli-Syrian talks have been dampened by Damascus insisting that nothing has changed, and Syria still requires full

withdrawal from the Golan. Gen. Shihabi accused Israel of breaking agreed principles and said Syria was not ready to yield to pressure.

"If Israel continues to avoid previously agreed upon commitments... that means that Syria will reject all Israeli blackmailing demands which contradict our pan-Arab security," Gen. Shihabi said.

"We believe if a just peace prevails, it will continue and it will not be shaken by political tornadoes or economic earthquakes because it was built on just bases," Gen. Shihabi added.

Syria on Friday officially marked the start of the 1973 Middle East war, which pitched Syria and Egypt against Israel.

Gen. Shihabi and Israeli military chiefs have met twice in Washington but failed to find a compromise. Security problems have undermined political negotiations.

Justifying Syria's continued emphasis on its military, even though the prospects of war with Israel have diminished, Gen. Shihabi said: "Any military battle needs military might and any negotiations need political strength. No political strength can be achieved without a military might to protect it."

He said that despite the stalemate in negotiations,

(Continued on page 7)

Aum's spokesman is detained

TOKYO (AP) — Shots identified as blanks were fired from a pistol Friday outside the Tokyo headquarters of the doomsday cult whose leaders have been arrested in nerve gas attacks and a string of other murders and crimes.

A man who appeared to be in his mid-20s was surrounded by police, surrendered without a struggle and was whisked away in an armoured van.

Dozens of police and hordes of reporters and spectators were gathered outside the roped off headquarters awaiting the arrest of the highest Aum Shinri Kyo cult official not yet in jail for a string of lethal nerve gas attacks, other murders and kidnappings.

Four months ago, a man described as the cult's number two official was stabbed to death outside the headquarters by a 30-year-old unemployed man who has since told a court he was ordered commit the murder by a mobster.

Friday, the unidentified man pointed a .38-caliber pistol towards the upper part of the cult headquarters and squeezed off what the Kyodo News Service said were five blanks.

Just two hours after the shots rang out, police Saturday arrested cult spokesman Fumihiko Joyu, who has been

(Continued on page 7)

Mestiri says battling Afghans to meet for peace in two weeks

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — The United Nations special envoy on Afghanistan said Thursday that Afghanistans' warring factions would meet in two weeks to try to find a peaceful end to 30 months of fierce fighting.

That surprise announcement came amid powerful threats of more fighting in the Afghan capital from well-armed opposition Taliban fighters demanding the resignation of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military chief, Ahmad Shah Masood.

"The best would be to have some kind of ceasefire and have them talk to each other," Mahmood Mestiri told the Associated Press in an interview in the Pakistani capital. "They are ready to meet."

When asked he said the meeting would take place in two weeks.

For nearly three weeks Mr. Mestiri has been cross-country Afghanistan meeting the main combatants in a ferocious civil war that has left more than 25,000 people dead since April 1992 when insurgents threw out the communists from Kabul.

Much of the fighting has been concentrated in the Afghan capital. It has turned entire neighbourhoods to rubble, made refugees of at least 750,000 people and internal refugees of hundreds of thousands more.

The U.N. has been struggling since 1992 to broker a lasting peace. A former foreign minister of Tunisia, Mr. Mestiri, appointed about one year ago, is the most recent envoy to make the attempt.

In March he almost had an agreement which called for Mr. Rabbani to step down and turn power over to a broad-based council.

But the opposition Taliban religious fighters refused to participate.

They are still refusing, said Mr. Mestiri but not as strenuously. Now the Taliban — students turned guerrilla fighters — are willing to talk to several other factions, but not to Mr. Rabbani.

Eyewitnesses say thousands of Taliban fighters are amassing outside the Afghan capital for a final showdown with Mr. Rabbani, whose forces control the entire city.

When the first U.N. peace efforts crumbled last March a bitter fight between the Taliban and Mr. Rabbani's troops left hundreds of people dead but government troops easily held the city.

But Taliban fighters emboldened by their recent successes against government troops in western Afghanistan are threatening to attack Kabul.

Last month they overran the strategic western city of Herat and a critical air force base nearby without a contest.

But Mr. Mestiri says Mr. Rabbani's forces are strong in Kabul and it's unlikely the Taliban could win a military contest for the Afghan capital.

"For the first time they have to calculate military strength... If they are well-advised they will know they cannot win by a full war," he said.

Afghanistan is divided between Mr. Rabbani's forces in Kabul and parts of the north and the Taliban who control about a third of the country, mostly in the south and west. The remainder of the country is divided among regional commanders and a former communist general, Rashid Dostum.

"Right now no one is a full loser and no one is a full winner," said Mr. Mestiri.

"That is some kind of balance," he said. "You can impose peace when you have a balance in which everyone

can win or everyone can lose."

In Kabul, a senior United Nations official told Afghans peace would encourage the flow of international aid, while the government forces and Taliban fighters traded artillery fire south of Kabul.

"Donor fatigue is more likely to prevail if donors cannot see a light at the end of the tunnel," Peter Hansen, U.N. under-secretary for humanitarian affairs, said at a news conference.

A peaceful solution to the 16-year Afghan conflict would "greatly assist" the U.N. in raising funds for Afghanistan, said Mr. Hansen, who is to launch the 1995-96 U.N. aid appeal for the strife-torn country in Geneva on Monday.

An exchange of artillery fire was reported on the frontlines some 40 kilometres from Kabul between pro-Rabbani troops and the Taliban.

It followed infantry clashes Wednesday for control of an important nearby copper mine which a pro-Rabbani frontline commander Gul Haider said was "still firmly in our hands."

In Charsayah village, some 25 kilometres south of Kabul, Mr. Haider was seen with troops of a newly-created mobile strike force.

The new 600-man force was heaped up with Russian T-62 tanks, BMP armoured fighting vehicles and truck-mounted 23mm anti-aircraft cannons.

Diplomatic sources in Kabul said Mr. Hansen will be appealing Monday for more than \$120 million. Last year's appeal for \$106 million was only 70 per cent realised.

"Today there are many crises in the world and it is not easy to raise the full amount for Afghanistan," the U.N. official said, before leaving for Islamabad.



RIGHT-WING PROTEST: Thousands of right-wingers stage a protest in occupied Jerusalem Thursday night against the Sept. 28 agreement signed between the Israeli government and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to expand Palestinian autonomy to the occupied West Bank (see page one) (AFP photo)

Chirac urges battle against 'religious fundamentalism'

TUNIS (R) — President Jacques Chirac, challenged by bombings at home blamed on Muslim militants, on Friday urged Tunisia to join France in the fight against the "religious fundamentalism" in the world.

Mr. Chirac said at the end of a two-day visit to Tunisia that he had agreed in talks with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on "the necessity of preventing the rise of religious fundamentalism in the world."

"We will together have to fight the forces of regression and all those who want to oppose bringing closer the two Mediterranean shores in a common modernity," he added.

"Let's make tolerance triumph over sectarianism, the spirit of openness over the forces of hatred and confrontation," he said in a speech to the Tunisian parliament.

Tunisia crushed its own fundamentalist movement in 1992 but has been concerned by violence in neighbouring Algeria. Algerians have also been blamed by authorities and courts in France and Belgium for violence in their countries.

Violence had spread to France where seven people have been killed and more than 130 wounded since July in bomb blasts attributed by

police to Muslim militants.

Mr. Ben Ali, in his speech at a banquet in Mr. Chirac's honour on Thursday night, stressed his country's commitment to security and stability in the region, "through the fight against the danger of extremism and terrorism, and (through) development in the whole Mediterranean region."

In his response, Mr. Chirac pledged aid worth one billion francs (\$201.1 million) for 1995 to help the former French colony to adapt its economy to international markets and overcome the effects of two years of drought.

Before the parliament on Friday, Mr. Chirac praised what he called "Tunisia's miracle" in economic development.

"France will be... on your side to aid and support your efforts... and back up your courageous reforms, particularly in the financial markets, privatisation and tourism," he said.

Mr. Chirac was to visit Kairouan's famous mosque later on Friday in what French officials said was a gesture aimed at saluting Tunisia's "tolerant Islam."

He was due to meet Mr. Ben Ali again for talks late on Friday before returning home.

Iranians develop Islamic computer

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran is adding a new weapon to its arsenal in the fight against Western influence: Islamic video games.

State-run Tehran Television said Thursday "the first computer game embracing Islamic moral values and belief is being developed at an Iranian research centre."

It quoted the head of the centre, identified only as Mr. Sho'ai, as saying the games would be mass produced. But the report gave no details about the games themselves.

Iran's clerical government has been trying to reconcile the puritanical values of the 1979 Islamic revolution with modern technology.

"Already, the Iranians have developed a number of computer programmes for the Koran. One programme can search through verses in the text for specific words or subjects."

In the city of Qom, seat of Iran's religious scholarship, students are taught computer classes and use computer programmes for religious research.

Hollywood producer to shoot Beirut rebuilding

BEIRUT (AFP) — The British producer of a string of Oscar-winning Hollywood productions John Dali said Thursday he was planning a film in Beirut to capture the spirit of post-war reconstruction and reflect on the civil war.

"I would like to capture the madness that took place here. To do something which will reflect on the Lebanese war without focusing on the war itself," Mr. Dali told AFP at the end of a brief visit to Beirut.

Mr. Dali, whose company produced such Hollywood films as Oliver Stone's *Platoon*, Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor*, Salvador and the Terminator, compared Beirut to post-war Berlin. "The destruction here is very dramatic. Parts of the city have been blitzed but life is continuing in a sort of normal way, things are functioning. There is a very positive attitude here now," he said.

"There is a unique opportunity to capture that spirit and the city itself because in five years' time it will be completely rebuilt," he said in reference to multi-billion dollar projects to erase the scars of the 1975-1990 civil

war. Mr. Dali has no fixed idea yet of the film's outline but said it will seek to portray someone witnessing the reconstruction drive while having flashbacks of the devastating conflict "like someone coming out of a dream into a nightmare."

He said he would like to use a local actress to play a young girl and a foreign actor to play the central figure, her father, adding that Ben Kingsley could fit well into that role.

But he promised that the film, which he expects to start shooting in March or April, "will not be bleak."

"There will be a humorous side to it," Mr. Dali said. Films produced by Mr. Dali's Hemdale production company on its own or in association with others have won 13 Oscars and 21 nominations, including two for best film.

In 1970, Mr. Dali produced a film in Beirut called *Embassy*, which told the story of a Russian who defected to the U.S. embassy. It was filmed at the height of Lebanon's "golden age" when Beirut was reputed to be the haunt of Arab and international spies.

Cyprus lawyer sues Britain and Turkey

NICOSIA (AFP) — A Cypriot lawyer is suing the British and Turkish governments for 250,000 Cypriot pounds (\$500,000) in lost revenue since the 1974 Turkish invasion, a newspaper reported on Thursday.

John Erotocritou told the Cyprus Mail that he was basing his case on the treaty of guarantee signed by Britain, Turkey and Greece in 1960 to protect the newly-independent Cyprus republic.

He said his family had to abandon their business empire in the town of Morphou, including four cinemas, a restaurant, 20 shops, a factory and an orange grove, when Turkish troops invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in 1974.

Mr. Erotocritou's property is now in the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot north of the island. "I'm asking for an order of the court restraining any person using my property in the occupied area, and I am asking for damages and lost profits from the day of the invasion until I am given my property back," he said.

Moderates, hardliners jockey for power in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Islamic moderates and conservatives are locked in a struggle for power six months before legislative elections which could also determine the next president and the future course of Iran.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, an Islamic moderate, entered the fray this week warning Islamic conservatives, who hold the majority in the present assembly, to stop using their influence to try to determine the outcome of the vote.

"I send a clear notice to all ministers not to allow themselves to be influenced by pressure groups," Mr. Rafsanjani said. "Any transfers made for political or electoral reasons are sinful."

His warning was directed at Interior Minister Ali

Mohammad Besharati, a conservative who has ordered a string of transfers among the country's governors and mayors in the past months.

The conservative lobby has pressed for changes in local administration posts through the country in a bid to ensure the success of its own candidates.

The moderate daily Iran News implicitly has criticised Mr. Besharati urging "vigilance to prevent any manipulation" of the polls.

The rivalry mainly centres around the role of the clergy in running the day-to-day affairs and determining economic and foreign policies.

The moderates favour a relaxation of tough Islamic laws, in place since the 1979 Islamic revolution, and a more positive attitude to-

wards Western countries. But conservatives insist on loyalty to fundamental Islamic principles on the domestic front and oppose influences from Western culture.

Two leading conservative members of parliament, Mohammad-Reza Babonar and Morteza Navaei, have warned against efforts by moderates to tip the balance in their favor in the next assembly, the fifth since the revolution.

"There is an attempt by those who favour relations with the United States, separation of state from religion and legalising satellites to occupy the next parliament," Mr. Babonar told the conservative *Rasalat* daily recently.

Despite opposition from the moderates, parliament

NEWS IN BRIEF

Greek Cypriot election set for May 1996

NICOSIA (AP) — Greek Cypriots will go to the polls on May 26 next year to elect a new parliament. House Speaker Alexis Galano said Thursday. The last general election, held in 1991, did not produce a single winner with an overall majority in the 56-seat house. Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of Cyprus in 1974 following a short-lived coup in Nicosia masterminded by a junta then ruling in Athens and aimed at uniting the island with Greece. A self-styled republic of northern Cyprus was declared in 1983 in the Turkish-occupied areas. Only Ankara recognises it.

Iraq launches giant water supply project to south

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has begun work again on an abandoned canal to take fresh water from the Euphrates river to the southern province of Basra at a cost of \$5.5 million, the press reported here Thursday. Work stopped on the 231-kilometre canal after the United Nations imposed oil and trade sanctions on Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The cost of completing the canal and renovating the supply network to 1.1 million inhabitants in Basra will be 11 billion dinars (\$5.5 million on the black market). Construction Minister Mahmud Dhiab Al Ahmad told the press. Iraq's drinking water supplies have fallen by around 40 per cent since the 1991 Gulf war, the U.N.'s deputy coordinator in Iraq, Viktor Wahrloos, said earlier this year. More than half the water samples taken in the city of Basra are contaminated, Mr. Wahrloos said. The city's infrastructure was badly damaged in the 1980-1988 war with Iran.

Police find 460 kilos of hashish in Lebanese cave

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese police have seized 460 kilograms of hashish hidden in a cave in a mountain village, the official news agency ANI said Thursday. The drugs, worth \$150,000, were to have been exported, the agency said. Police, helped by Syrian intelligence agents, discovered the haul packed in cloth bags in a cave in the village of Rumiye in the north Lebanese mountains. A man was arrested and investigations were continuing, ANI said. Drugs seizures have increased in Lebanon since its cannabis and poppy fields in the Syrian-controlled east and north were destroyed after the 1975-1990 civil war.

No 'secret Argentine-Iran contacts'

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — The Argentine government denied Thursday having made secret contacts with Iran in an attempt to avoid further anti-Semitic attacks, such as the deadly 1994 attack in a Jewish charity centre here. Government sources cited by leading press outlets have indicated that Buenos Aires had agreed to tone down accusations against Islamic fundamentalism in exchange for not being a target of attacks. Eduardo Bauza, head of the cabinet, said the government did not have such contacts, telling reporters officials had "at all times shown its intention to get to the bottom of the attack" against the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association, which killed 86 people and wounded scores more. Argentina has recently launched a new effort to find those responsible for the attack. Police have arrested two men and a woman who were not identified but are presumed to be linked to Carlos Alberto Telles, the only suspect currently in custody.

Iraq warns of pollution from sunken ships

UM QASR (R) — Iraq has warned of serious pollution unless the United Nations helps it salvage three tankers loaded with oil that were sunk in the Gulf during the 1991 war over Kuwait. "We wish very sincerely that the agreements will be granted to salvage all the three tankers to save the area and the people (from) the environmental pollution," Abbas Jadi, manager of port of Um Qasr, told Reuters. The tankers were sunk in Iraqi and international waters near the Iraqi port of Um Qasr, 110 kilometres south of the city Basra, by the U.S.-led forces that liberated Kuwait. Mr. Jadi warned if the three tankers — the *Einza*, *Rumaila* and *Amouria* — broke up: "They will destroy the coast nearby, the harbour nearby and the sea life."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 723111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 ... Back to the Future
14:30 ... Harry and the Hendersons
15:00 ... Blue Heelers
15:45 ... Only in Hollywood
16:10 ... I Love Lucy
16:30 ... Tarzan
17:00 ... Children's Programme — Les Mondes Enchantés
18:00 ... Documentary — Le Loire Au Fil Des Hommes
18:30 ... Drama Series — Operation Open I & II
19:00 ... Le Journal
19:15 ... Magazine — Faut Pas Rester
19:30 ... News Headlines
19:35 ... Major Dad
20:00 ... First Flights
20:25 ... The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10 ... Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 ... News in English
22:25 ... Voices Within
23:50 ... The Tin Flute

PRAYER TIMES

04:12 ... Fajr
05:29 ... Sunrise
11:24 ... Dhuhr
14:44 ... 'Asr
17:19 ... Maghrib
18:35 ... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 811740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 642626
American Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711751
Assiuta International Church Tel. 632536
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 634328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Moderate weather conditions are expected to prevail during the day becoming cool at night with winds northeasterly to easterly moderate.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 15 / 28
Aqaba 21 / 34
Deserts 19 / 31
Jordan Valley 21 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Rami Mzawi 894788
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 770797
Dr. Awni Al Hawndich 832350
Dr. Khalil Al Tashuq 894788
Fire pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 631855
Nairokh pharmacy 823672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Shamsani pharmacy 644945
Najla pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shoaib 246141
Alquds pharmacy [—]

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 655900
Price Complaints 661175
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 636381
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 110230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 72111
Jordan Tele-Vision 77111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 18-33201
Queen Alia Int. Airport 18-33201

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Mallat, J. Amman 830140
Pakistane, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645445
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 661171/31
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661646/6
Jullian, Al-Muhajireen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891811/15
Queen Alia Hospital 622405/0
Amal Hospital 674135
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (18)53203-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:45 ... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
07:00 ... Damascus (RJ)
08:45 ... New Delhi (RJ)
09:15 ... Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 ... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:35 ... Beirut (RJ)
10:00 ... Colombo (RJ)
14:45 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:05 ... Vienna (RJ)
18:15 ... London, Berlin (RJ)
19:40 ... Vienna (RJ)
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (18)933733
Zarqa National Hospital (18)933733
Ibn Sina Hospital (18)933733
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (18)933733
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (18)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (18)272275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (18)274100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (18)314111

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:40 ... Beirut (RJ)
07:00 ... Aqaba (RJ)
11:00 ... Vienna (RJ)
11:40 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 ... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:10 ... Paris (RJ)
12:15 ... Cairo (RJ)
12:15 ... Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:00 ... London (RJ)
13:45 ... Larnaca (RJ)
18:00 ... Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
19:15 ... Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 ... Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
21:20 ... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 ... Beirut (ME)
12:10 ... Rome (AZ)
13:10 ... Vienna (OS)
13:10 ... Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
19:15 ... Dubai (EK)
20:25 ... Cairo (MS)
23:20 ... Larnaca (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700 / 500
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 200 / 150
Carrot 420 / 300
Cauliflower 300 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 300 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 200
Eggplant 250 / 160
Garlic 700 / 500
Grapes 700 / 500
Guava 600 / 500
Lemon 200 / 100
Marrow (large) 340 / 240
Marrow (small) 210 / 150
Okra 900 / 750
Onion (dry) 240 / 180
Pepper (hot) 240 / 150
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 150
Pomegranate 370 / 270
Potato 300 / 200
Spinach 300 / 200
String Beans 850 / 650
Tomato 1100 / 800

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Lebanese cave

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contacts

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currently in custody

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control of the Guardian
council, controlled by
conservative clergy, could
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n and reject any candi-
deemed unsuitable

IAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Amman
Amman
Amman

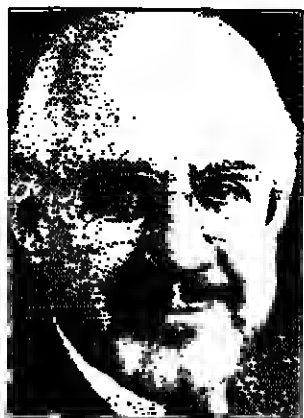
MARKET PRICES

Item	Price
1kg	1.00
2kg	2.00
3kg	3.00
4kg	4.00
5kg	5.00
6kg	6.00
7kg	7.00
8kg	8.00
9kg	9.00
10kg	10.00

Home News

Bundestag team concludes visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Vice-President of the Federal German Parliament (Bundestag) Hans Klein and an accompanying parliamentary delegation concluded a five-day visit to Jordan Friday saying his government will do all it can to help Jordan and the peace process.



Hans Klein

On Thursday the visiting team called on Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'ad Hayel Srour to express Germany's full support for the Kingdom's peace efforts.

Also, at a press conference Thursday, Mr. Klein voiced Bonn's appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace in the region and he reiterated his country's determination to extend assistance to the Kingdom.

Mr. Klein's visit covered three main areas of discussion: the peace process,

democratic process, which he described as impressive. With that in mind, he said, there was an urgent need for European countries to back development programmes in the Middle Eastern states.

Mr. Klein's visit falls in line with a series of visits to Jordan by several high-ranking German officials.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl visited Jordan for two days in June, and was followed by German Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, Carl-Dieter Spranger who spent four days here in August.

The President of the Federal German Parliament, Rita Süsmuth is scheduled to attend the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which begins in Amman on Oct. 29.

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The German delegation was also received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. Mr. Klein remarked that Jordan, with its meagre resources, had been able to achieve a great deal in its

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Private sector medical committee decides against attending MENA

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The private sector medical committee formed to represent the Jordanian medical community at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit has decided against participation in the conference, which is scheduled to begin Oct. 29.

The committee bowed to pressures from the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) which argued that participation in the conference would violate the association's decision to boycott normalisation with Israel, committee organisers told the Jordan Times.

"The committee has decided to discontinue its activities," Sa'ed Hammoudi, a member of the committee, said.

"There has been a disagreement between the JMA, which argued that participation in the conference constitutes a form of normalisation, and the medical committee, which argued that it did not, Mr. Hammoudi said.

As members of the JMA, we decided to respect the JMA's decision," he explained.

Basem Dajani, president of the JMA, told the Jordan Times in an interview last month that the JMA had informed the 11-member medical committee to act in accordance with JMA rules.

"The General Assembly of the Jordan Medical Association has voted

against normalisation with Israel and against professional contacts with Israelis. Participation in conferences by members of the association should be in line with this decision. We have therefore instructed the medical committee to abide by the rules of the association and not to attend the MENA conference," Dr. Dajani said.

As practising physicians, all members of the medical committee are required to be members of the JMA.

The medical committee had been formed at the government's initiative to advertise Jordan's high-quality medical services in the region, especially since many patients come to Jordan from surrounding countries, Dr. Hammoudi had told the Jordan Times earlier.

Its 11 members came from the private sector.

According to Dr. Hammoudi, the medical committee took its decision to withdraw from the conference at a meeting Thursday evening, and has already informed the JMA and the Private Sector Executive Committee (PSEC), under whose auspices the committee was formed.

Shabib Ammari, rapporteur of the PSEC, told the Jordan Times that a number of physicians had approached the PSEC with some very good ideas on how to promote Jordan as a regional medical centre.

The PSEC responded to these ideas and had facili-

tated the formation of a medical committee under its umbrella.

Dr. Ammari stressed, however, that the PSEC did not initiate the setting up of the committee, but was only offering assistance.

In the interview preceding the medical committee's decision to withdraw from the conference, Dr. Ammari said the PSEC would not interfere in the committee's deliberations, and added that he hoped that individual members would still attend the conference.

Dr. Ammari stressed the importance of scaling down the conflict between the medical committee and the JMA to its proper dimension.

"The PSEC has 11 sectoral committees, but we only have a problem with one of the committees," he said.

"Most of the members of other committees, such as the construction committee, are members of a professional syndicate, such as, for example, the Jordanian Engineers Association or the Jordanian Contractors Association. Some members of committees have even provided funding for the PSEC. And none of them has had any problems with their associations," he said.

According to Dr. Ammari, the PSEC was created to improve the investment climate in Jordan and to prepare well-defined projects to be presented to the Arab and international business

communities.

The work of the PSEC has no political dimension," he said. "It is up to participants if they wish to shake

hands with Israelis.

We respect the individual's decision on this," he explained.

Panel presents \$133m in transport projects for MENA

AMMAN (Petra) — A sub-committee on transport Friday announced that seven projects worth a total of \$133 million have been prepared for submission to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit.

The panel, charged with projects concerning the transport sector is part of the larger Executive Committee preparing for the MENA conference.

Sub-committee rapporteur Sufian Muheisen said in a statement that one project, worth \$38 million, entails revamping the country's fleet of transport trucks.

Another project, worth \$11.2 million, will upgrade and modernise the engineering section at Royal Jordanian (RJ) airlines.

Information centres to be set up

Meanwhile, Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Sarairoh Friday announced that the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has made 3,000 telephone lines available in preparation for the Oct 29 MENA conference.

The minister made the statement during an inspection, tour of the TCC's departments to examine preparations and activities for the provision of telephone, telex and facsimile services at the conference's press centre and at hotels.

Two information centres for journalists at the Jerusalem and Middle East Hotels will be set up to supplement the main information centre at the Al Hussein Sports.

A fourth information centre will be set up at Amra Hotel for business people attending the conference, Mr. Sarairoh said.

American, German as well as local companies are involved in installing the telephone, facsimile lines and cellular telephone services at these centres, according to the minister.

Arrangements for these services are expected to be finalised within the next few days, he added.

List of fugitives suspected of hiding in U.S. to be announced — minister

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Justice Minister Hisham Tal Friday said Jordan will soon receive a list of persons wanted by the Jordanian authorities in connection with various crimes and suspected of being in the U.S. to be extradited to Jordan.

Mr. Tal told the Jordan Times that authorities here have asked their U.S. counterparts to inquire about all such Jordanians and to provide them with information on these fugitives.

Mr. Tal said that the names of these fugitives and the charges against them will be announced

after the list has been received.

In December 1994, Jordanian and U.S. officials drew up a draft memorandum of understanding on extradition of criminals between the two countries.

The ministry's council approved the draft in June.

Mr. Tal said the treaty was signed between the countries following the U.S. government's request for the extradition of Mohammad Ismael Abequa, a Jordanian-American, who was sentenced in Jordan to 15 years in prison for the murder of his wife in the U.S.

The justice minister, however, said that the recent Jordanian request for the

list of fugitives is not related to the U.S. request for extradition of Iyad Nejem, a Jordanian citizen charged as an accessory to the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing which killed six people and caused \$500 million worth of damages.

Mr. Nejem, 24, who was extradited from Jordan to the U.S. on August 3, is accused of driving the vehicle that transported the bomb into the World Trade Centre building.

He is expected to stand trial next year with Ramzi Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the World Trade Centre bombing.

Lawzi heads delegation to IPU meetings in Bucharest

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi Friday left at the head of a parliamentary delegation for Bucharest to take part in the International Parliamentary Union's (IPU) 94th session, which will be held there from Oct. 7 to Oct. 15.

In a departure statement, Mr. Lawzi said the delegation will coordinate with other Arab parliamentary delegations on all issues of common concern.

The Senate speaker said the IPU's session will be preceded by Arab meetings to discuss various regional and international issues of common interest.

Mr. Lawzi added that the IPU will discuss issues of interest to all peoples,



Ahmad Lawzi

including human rights and development-related issues

for Africa.

Arab parliaments have called on the IPU to include on their agenda items about the role of parliamentarians in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on the status of the holy city of Jerusalem, he said.

The delegation includes Taber Hikmat, Abdullah Ensour, Ahmad Kofabi, Hammad Abu Jamous, in addition to the Parliament's Secretary General Hakam Khair and Zeid Zureikat, director of Arab and international parliamentary affairs at Parliament.

Bank employees to get 12% raise

AMMAN (Petra) — The staff of the Amman-Cairo Bank will get an increase of 12 per cent of their base salaries as of Nov. 1, according to a ruling passed by the Industrial Court.

The court ruling called for granting bank employees a 12 per cent salary increase, stipulates that the raise should not be less than JD 20, nor more than JD 150 per month beginning November.

The ruling, which took into consideration the strong financial standing of the bank, stressed the need to pay end-of-service compensation to all staff regardless of their years of service with the bank.

It also raised the loan ceiling granted to employees to 70 times the monthly salary of the employees, payable over a period of 20 years with simple interest.

The court, presided over by Judge Mahmoud

Dahshan, said the Amman Cairo Bank has achieved net profits of JD 3.8 million in 1994, and has not experienced any financial crises or difficulties, noting that the bank's achievements are attributed to the bank's range of activities and the efficiency of its staff.

The Amman Cairo Bank case was referred to the Industrial Court on Aug. 1 by Labour Minister Nader Abul Sha'ar, following the failure of efforts by the reconciliation council to reach a settlement to the dispute between the bank management and its staff over salaries and working conditions.

The ruling called on the bank management to increase its contribution towards the medical insurance scheme and to purchase a group insurance policy for its staff which would cover death, and partial and total disability.



A pristine part of the Aqaba coastline (file photo)

American firm to build expansive resort in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — A multi-million dollar tourism resort in the port city of Aqaba has been agreed upon with the American company, Magic World, according to Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) President Faysal Khasawneh.

Speaking after signing the agreement with Magic World Manager Richard Ligon on Thursday, Dr. Khasawneh described the project as establishing Aqaba as part of the so-called "Red Sea Riviera."

Magic World will build a 256-room hotel and 200 chalets along with an entertainment park on 400 dunums in Aqaba, according to Dr. Khasawneh, who announced the project at a press conference in Amman.

Dr. Khasawneh said the project will be carried out in cooperation with and support from the Jordanian government.

Magic World will provide the funding for the project, and the ARA will soon offer shares in the project to

the public through the Amman Financial Market.

With this venture, which Mr. Khasawneh described as an impetus to the tourism industry, Aqaba is expected to witness a further boom in tourism, as well as in industrial and transport sectors.

Mr. Ligon said the project aims to promote Jordanian-American cooperation in economic affairs and in corroborating the peace process and encouraging other firms to invest in the Kingdom.

NEWS IN BRIEF

General Karadayi ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, General Ismail Karadayi and his accompanying delegation Friday concluded a several-day official visit to Jordan, during which they met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and their official host, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General. Abdul Hafiz Marei Kaabneh. Gen. also visited several military, cultural and archaeological sites. He was seen off by Gen. Kaabneh and senior armed forces officers, in addition

to the Turkish ambassador to Jordan and the Turkish military attaché in Amman.

Yemeni postal officials conclude mission

AMMAN (Petra) — A Yemeni delegation from the Post and Postal Saving Department headed by Abdullah Kabbous Friday concluded a several-day official visit to Jordan, during which the team held talks with senior Ministry of Post and Communications officials on issues of interest to the Yemeni postal department. Discussions centred on training Yemeni cadres in Jordan, and sending a Jordanian expert to train Yemeni postal officials.

Potash company reports rise in '94 production

By Khattab Salman
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab Potash Company (APC) increased its production by 13 per cent and its sales by 2.3 per cent last year, according to the APC report and financial statements of 1994.

The APC's annual report, which was made available to the Jordan Times and is expected to be published later this month, said the company registers a net

profit of JD 24.2 million or a 10.4 per cent growth in net profit over the previous year.

"World demand for potash increased in 1994. This increase was more evident in Asia where demand was estimated at over 9.3 million tonnes; this is a 27 per cent increase over the previous year and has directly resulted in an increase in potash prices even though production has also risen by 6 per cent," the report said.

In 1994, it said, world production of potash increased by 2 million tonnes reaching 35 million after the decrease from 37 million tonnes to 32.9 million in 1993.

The 1994 increase was the first in world production since 1988, according to the report.

The APC's report noted that APC sales in 1994 achieved record sales of 1,516,652 metric tonnes with India as the top importer of Jordanian

potash.

"By signing several long-term contracts with the largest importers in India, APC managed to regain its place as a major supplier to the Indian market. Indian imports totalled 350,015 million tonnes followed by Indonesia with 181,000 million, and Malaysia 174,340 million," the report said.

It said total APC Asian sales reached 11,779.15 million tonnes which represents 77.7 per cent of total

APC sales in 1994.

"In Europe," the report added, "APC increased its share of the market after the sharp price increase where sales to Italy have doubled and an acceptable position in the Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg) and Spain have been achieved and is expected to be maintained."

Figures for 1994 show the ability of APC to adapt to the constant changes in world markets, the report said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

POETRY RECITAL

*Recital of poems by Mahmoud Tel at the Phoenix Gallery at 6.30pm.

EXHIBITIONS

*A Retrospective Exhibition of Sculptures and Drawings (1965-1995) by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Funun, Jebel Weibdeh.

*Sculptures by Iraqi artist Kazem Shamhoud at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utheina.

*Painting and sculpture by Rafiq Lahham and Laith Al Turk at the Italian Language Centre Gallery, Shmeisani.

*Abstract art by the Syrian artist Mohammad Daghestani at the Phoenix Gallery.

*Selected works by the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.

* Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fontaine," at the French Cultural Centre.

Russian commander in Chechnya hurt in attack

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russia's top military commander in the breakaway Republic of Chechnya was critically wounded in a bomb explosion Friday, news agencies said.

Lt. Gen. Anatoly Romanov, 47, was hospitalised in grave condition after suffering a cranial wound. His deputy, Col. Alexander Zaslavsky, and their car's driver were killed in the blast, which also wounded at least nine Russian troops.

The explosion occurred in the Chechen capital of Grozny as Gen. Romanov's motorcade was going through an underpass.

It was the second major attack on a senior Russian official in the last three weeks. On Sept. 20, a powerful bomb explosion narrowly missed Oleg Lobov, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's envoy in Chechnya.

Friday's bomb attack was apparently aimed at Russian Interior Minister Gen. Anatoly Kulikov, who was touring Chechnya but left for Moscow earlier than expected, the ministry said.

"War in Chechnya is still going on," Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets said at a government session in Moscow after disclosing the news of the attack, according to the Interfax News Agency.

Gen. Romanov has spearheaded efforts to negotiate an end to the war, which began in December 1994 when Russian troops invaded Chechnya to squelch its three-year independence

bid.

A truce signed by the Russians and Chechens in July has been interrupted by continuous clashes. Gen. Romanov has extensively traveled throughout Chechnya to convince Chechens to lay down arms in response to a promise of the withdrawal of Russian troops.

A spokesman for the Russian military command in Chechnya, who declined to be identified by name, said the attack was an attempt to disrupt the process of peaceful settlement in Chechnya.

The remote-controlled bomb also killed and wounded at least several passengers on a commuter bus passing through the underpass at the same time with Gen. Romanov's motorcade.

Gen. Romanov has been taken to a Russian military hospital in Vladikavkaz in neighboring North Ossetia for urgent treatment. A team of doctors has left Moscow to help on Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's order.

In the past 24 hours, six Russian soldiers were killed and four wounded in other clashes around Chechnya, Interfax said.

Meanwhile former Russian parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov blasted Chechnya's Moscow-backed government Thursday, calling it an illegitimate body hindering the peace process in the breakaway southern republic.

"(The government) came to power on Russian bay-

nets and tanks, spilling a sea of blood," Mr. Khasbulatov told the Interfax News Agency.

Mr. Khasbulatov, an ethnic Chechen who remains popular in Chechnya, led a parliamentary rebellion against President Yeltsin in Moscow in 1993.

But Mr. Yeltsin conceded recently that Mr. Khasbulatov might be able to help achieve a peace accord palatable to Chechens.

On Thursday, Mr. Khasbulatov said the leaders of the Moscow-supported government "live in their narrow world isolated from the trouble of the people."

Moscow installed the national revival government after invading Chechnya in December to quash its three-year bid for independence.

Mr. Khasbulatov also pushed for more negotiations, saying: "a round table is better than a war."

Meanwhile, the situation across the Caucasus Mountains republic remained tense.

The village of Sernovodsk, on Chechnya's western border with the ethnic republic of Ingushetia, has been surrounded by Russian troops for several days, according to local reports.

Hundreds of Chechens and Ingush are picketing nearby to demand that the Russians free the town, which Moscow says is controlled by armed rebels.

In the capital, Grozny, Chechens threatened to halt peace talks unless Russian

troops stop "violating human rights" in Sernovodsk, Interfax said.

But in two other Chechen towns, rebels resumed disarmament Thursday, as part of a July 30 military accord. Chechen fighters turned over weapons in Alkhazurovo and Komsomolskoye in the south of the republic, Interfax said.

The accord, which calls for rebel disarmament, partial Russian pullout and prisoner exchanges, is supposed to pave the way for elections in Chechnya, with the republic's political status to be determined later.

But Mr. Khasbulatov said Thursday that elections will be impossible without a legitimate government — which the national revival is not, he said.

Moscow says about 13,000 troops have been pulled out of Chechnya, but thousands more remain. The warring sides are frequently accusing each other of dragging their feet in implementing the accord.

Gen. Grachev, speaking to World War II veterans in Moscow Thursday, said the rebel Chechens regard the treaty as "a ploy for the sake of military buildup."

He estimated the rebel strength at 6,000 fighters. The separatists have recently acquired 12 tanks and 16 armoured vehicles from unspecified sources, he said.



Pope John Paul II (centre) greets the crowd at New Jersey's Newark International Airport upon his arrival in the United States for a five-day visit (AFP photo)

Pope decries abortion and euthanasia in first U. S. mass

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Pope John Paul II urged America to welcome immigrants and rid itself of the "moral blight" of abortion and euthanasia.

Just 16 kilometres from the Statue of Liberty, the Pontiff told 82,948 rain-soaked worshippers Thursday to continue in the tradition of the civil rights movements to extend legal protection to "the unborn child," the elderly and the severely disabled.

"Both as Americans and as followers of Christ, American Catholics must be committed to the defence of life in all its stages and in every condition," the Pontiff declared from a giant altar at one end of the zone.

In addition to his criticism of liberals' attempts to expand access to abortion and to permit assisted suicides, the Pope was critical of recent conservative efforts to limit immigration.

He recited part of Emma Lazarus' 19th century poem in urging Americans to continue to welcome "immigrants yearning to breathe free and to serve the poor."

"If America were to turn on itself, would this not be the beginning of the end of what constitutes the very essence of the 'American experience'?" he asked in his homily.

Hours of steady rain could not detract from the enthusiasm of the bunched masses inside the converted football field. Some wept, others pressed their hands to their hearts or cried "viva el papa" as the Pontiff circled the stadium in his Popemobile.

"This is the most important day of my life. I cannot describe to you how important it is to be here," 76-year-old Edward Pietro of Toms River said. "After today, if nothing else exciting or wonderful happens in my life, I will die a fulfilled man."

Earlier, the Pope urged the United Nations to be an authentic force for peace.

"The United Nations

organisation needs to rise more and more above the cold status of an administrative institution and to become a moral centre where all the nations of the world feel at home," he told the 185-member General Assembly.

The Pope's visit during the United Nations' 50th anniversary year was the central point of his fourth pilgrimage to the United States. The organisation is deeply in debt, in part because of its expanded peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and elsewhere, and Pope John Paul wants to see it strengthened.

But that meeting like the other events since the Pope's arrival Wednesday was for a small group of dignitaries and invited guests. It was here in Giants Stadium that masses of the faithful could see the man many believe is the Vicar of Christ on Earth.

In an atmosphere more resonant of a concert or athletic event than a mass, flares popped throughout the stadium as the Pope re-entered the field for the opening procession.

Before that, worshippers did "the wave" and chanted "John Paul II, we love you" as they waited.

The Pope was partially protected by a white canopy hanging over a huge red carpeted altar set up in an end zone. But at one point, the wind knocked off his white skullcap. Some bishops celebrating mass with the Pope wore clear rain slickers over their white and gold vestments.

At the United Nations, Pope John Paul sketched the dramatic changes since he last addressed the Assembly in 1979 — the fall of communism and cuts in nuclear arsenals.

Now, he stressed, the danger stems from a "narrow and exclusive nationalism," which triggered "a true nightmare of violence and terror," most recently during ethnic upheavals in Rwanda and Bosnia.

"Nationalism, particularly

in its most radical forms, is thus the antithesis of true patriotism, and today we must ensure that extreme nationalism does not continue to give rise to new forms of the aberrations of totalitarianism," he said.

Touching on a theme he raised during a trip to Africa last month, the Pope said developing countries often face "a situation of de facto economic dependence on other countries. Such situations offend the conscience of humanity and pose a formidable moral challenge to the human family."

"We have within us the capacities for wisdom and virtue," he continued. "And in doing so, we shall see that the tears of this century have prepared the ground for a new springtime of the human spirit."

Even at the austere U.N. Headquarters alongside New York's East River, the visit evoked a warmth rare in such formal surroundings.

As the 75-year-old Pontiff approached, U.N. employees stood on furniture and bopped up and down with cameras raised over their heads. Their shouts echoed through the stone and glass hall.

Children from the United Nations International School, many dressed in clothing that reflected their ethnic backgrounds, greeted the Pope in the lobby. One child held a papier-mache white dove. The Pope lifted the symbol of peace and asked the children to "pray for... humanity."

At other stops during his four-hour stay at U.N. Headquarters, the Pontiff dedicated a plaque to U.N. personnel killed while on peacekeeping duty or on humanitarian missions.

Pope John Paul's trip runs through Sunday night, and is to include huge masses in Central Park in Manhattan and Aqueduct Race Track and at Camden Yards Baseball Stadium in Baltimore.

Titanic poster sold for \$12,100

LONDON (R) — A 1912 poster urging Britons to sail on the Titanic on its fateful maiden voyage has been sold for £7,650 (\$12,110), Christie's auctioneers said. The poster for the White Star Line features a four-funnel vessel and calls the Olympic and Titanic "the largest steamers in the world". The Titanic, supposedly unsinkable, struck an iceberg and sank off Newfoundland in April, 1912. More than 1,500 people died. Found folded in a chest in an attic in Sheffield, northern England, earlier this year, the poster was bought by a British collector of memorabilia.

Moroccan sardine fishermen net blue whale

RABAT (R) — Moroccan fishermen trawling for sardines in the Atlantic netted instead a 12-tonne blue whale, the Moroccan News Agency (MAP) said. The 13-metre whale dwarfed the 11-metre trawler, which was off the Western Saharan port of Tarfaya. MAP quoted the captain as saying the whale failed to free itself from the net despite a struggle of more than 12 hours. It was not immediately known if the whale survived. MAP quoted a marine scientist as saying blue whales were rarely seen in Moroccan waters.

Calls to stop Olympic bird release

ATLANTA (R) — A coalition of animal rights groups asked organisers of the 1996 Olympics not to release live birds during the opening ceremonies at next summer's games. In a petition submitted to the organising committee, about 200 groups led by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), said the birds could be harmed if they are released after the lighting of the Olympic flame in July. Animal rights activists say 2,000 pigeons will be released during the opening ceremonies. But Laurie Olsen, a spokeswoman for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), said the ceremony programme has not even been put together yet.

Victims of fashion land in jail

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — Some fashion experts may consider them a crime but police in Colombia said two women were actually arrested for sporting overstuffed shoulder pads. The women were preparing to board a flight from Medellin to Miami when their oversized shoulder pads, which appeared better suited for a football player than a fashionable lady, caught the eye of an airport security guard, police said. They said a quick search revealed that rather than polyester foam, the shoulders of the women's pleated dresses contained 2-1/2 lb (1.1 kg) of 90-per cent pure heroin.

Diana visits the homeless

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana polished up her "saintly" image, badly tarnished by rumours of secret trysts with a married rugby star, when she visited London's homeless. As patron of a charity for homeless youth, she met young people sleeping rough in the capital's King's Cross district, notorious for drug addicts and prostitutes. The estranged wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles has already taken her young sons Prince William and Prince Harry to meet down-and-outs on the streets as part of her determination not to let them grow up ignorant of less privileged people in the kingdom.

All Ireland honours Nobel winner

DUBLIN (R) — They say a true poet is not recognised in his home country. They were wrong in the case of Seamus Heaney, who won the Nobel Literature Prize Thursday.

Residents of the Northern Ireland city of Londonderry heaped praise on Mr. Heaney, an unassuming, tousled poet who married Irish lyricism with a frank look at the pain of modern Ireland.

Among them was school contemporary John Hume, an Irish nationalist who is himself tipped by some to win the Nobel Peace Prize for pushing the Northern Ireland peace process which silenced guerrilla guns one year ago. "It's fabulous news," said Mr. Hume, leader of the moderate Social Democratic and Labour Party of Northern Ireland. "This will go across the country, north and south."

Mr. Hume dismissed suggestions that the prize was linked to the Northern Ireland peace process. "The reason for this award is his standing across the world as a poet and not because of what is happening in our part of the world," he told Irish Radio.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said: "His poetry, which has enriched and illuminated Irish life, from simple everyday events to his reflections on the divisions which have afflicted the island of Ireland, truly deserve this international recognition and acclaim."

President Mary Robinson said that the award "brought great honour to Ireland," whose previous winners include W. B. Yeats, Samuel Beckett and George Bernard Shaw.

Brian Friel, Ireland's best-known living playwright



Seamus Heaney

and a close friend of Mr. Heaney, said: "It is a wonderful achievement. I am delighted for Seamus and I am delighted for the country."

At St. Columba's College, the Roman Catholic boys' school in Londonderry which Mr. Heaney attended school president Father John Walsh, told final year pupils about the award.

"It is a well deserved honour. It is also an honour for the school and the country and it is an honour for the country."

Pat McCarty, editor of the Derry Journal, said it was the kind of tonic the area needed after years of conflict. "It is a great honour which assures his place in the literary pantheon."

Information Director Alf McCreary of Queens University, Belfast said "We at Queens are absolutely delighted that this exceptional honour has been won by one of our most distinguished graduates, who is one of the finest poets of his generation."

"Seamus is a national poet who has become an international poet. What he has become is a citizen of the world," said Theo Dorgan, director of literary organisa-

tion Poetry Ireland.

"He is a man of most extraordinary generosity towards his work, towards other poets and to his reader," Mr. Dorgan said. "He has also retained an extraordinary sense of wonder — and that, above all is what is honoured today."

Drinkers at Scruffy Murphy, one of the poet's old Dublin haunts, said they were delighted by the news but had not read much of his poetry.

"I used to know him when he drank here. He was a lovely man. Like a lot of poets, he liked a pint of stout," said Michael Bourke, former manager of the pub. "I didn't realise he was in the big league."

Some patrons of the pub said they had never heard of Mr. Heaney. Most said they had never read his poems.

"I haven't read any of it. Some people might have, if it was required reading for them at university."

Accountant Noel Hall said, "I don't read his poetry, but I'm very glad he won it," said builder Derek Keegan. "I don't know much about him I'm afraid."

Meanwhile Harvard University joined the chorus of worldwide praise for Mr. Heaney Thursday, hailing the poet as the first Harvard professor ever to win the Nobel Literature Prize.

"Seamus Heaney is one of the great poets of our century," said Harvard President Neil Rensdine, himself an English professor and scholar of renaissance literature. "He has written verse that is moving, always complex, and yet powerful in its simplicity — so pellucid it can never be muddled, to borrow from one of his lines."

U.S. envoy pulled out of Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — The U.S. government has pulled its ambassador out of Colombia amid deteriorating relations between the two countries, a local television news programme reported late Thursday.

Although the U.S. government has said Ambassador Myles Frechette is on vacation, it has actually pulled him out of his post temporarily, the Washington correspondent of the programme CM said.

The State Department in Washington had no immediate comment on the report.

Citing sources in Washington, the correspondent said the government decided to pull Mr. Frechette out of the country because it was not pleased with the way bilateral relations were being handled.

He said the ambassador's removal was intended as a "diplomatic message" to Colombian President Ernesto Samper but did not elaborate.

Before leaving Bogota last week, Mr. Frechette told local radio he was going to Europe on a holiday with his family.

U.S. embassy officials could not be reached for comment after the programme's broadcast.

Relations between the two countries worsened Wednesday after a congressman presented to the lower house recordings of alleged telephone conversations between officials of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Independent deputy Carlos Alonso Lucio played during a televised session of the House of Representatives a series of conversations in which Tony Senneca, the head of the DEA in Colombia, allegedly discussed plans to conspire against Mr. Samper with officials in Washington.

Japan minister may be forced to quit

TOKYO (R) — In a new blow to Japan's shaky coalition government, Justice Minister Tomoharu Tazawa may be forced to resign over a reported secret deal with the opposition.

"This is a serious matter for the cabinet," top government spokesman Koken Nosaka said. "We will ask the minister to clarify this." Asked if the government

would seek Mr. Tazawa's resignation, Mr. Nosaka replied: "That is a possibility."

The Yomiuri Shimbun Friday accused Mr. Tazawa of making a backroom deal with the opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) to withdraw questions in parliament about a loan.

The newspaper said

Shinshinto upper house member Ichiji Ishii agreed to withdraw references in prepared questions to Mr. Tazawa on Oct. 3 about a 200 million Yen (\$2 million) loan he had failed to report in his list of assets.

An aide to Mr. Tazawa refused to comment on the report, but the Yomiuri quoted him as denying he made such a request.

EU wants cuts in ozone-destroying chemicals

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's executive body has announced that it would seek sharp new cuts in member states' emissions of chemicals that destroy the Earth's protective ozone layer.

"We in the Union have to take the lead in pushing for stricter measures," EU Environment Commissioner Ritt Bjerregaard said in announcing the proposals.

"It is now we have to act," the EU Commission plans to push for a 50 per cent cut in emissions of methyl bromide, a common pesticide, by 1998 and total elimination "as soon as possible," Commission officials said.

The Commission also hoped to accelerate the EU plan to phase out emissions of hydrochlorofluorocarbons in the 15-nation union by 2015.

The Commission will ask

EU environment ministers to flesh out details and approve the two proposals at a meeting in Luxembourg.

If the ministers approve new targets, the EU will try to convince other nations to accept the same limits at a meeting this fall in Vienna to amend the Montreal Protocol, the treaty limiting worldwide emissions of ozone-depleting gases.

Titanic poster sold for \$12,100

LONDON (R) — A 1911 poster urging Britons to sail on the Titanic in a fateful maiden voyage has been sold for £12,100 (\$12,100), Christie's auctioneers said. The poster, for the White Star Line, features a four-funnelled ship and calls the Olympic steamers in the world "The Titanic, supposed unsinkable, struck on iceberg and sank on 15 April 1912. More than 1,500 people died. Found today in a chest in an attic in Bedford, northern England, earlier this year the poster was bought by a British collector of memorabilia.

Moroccan sardine fishermen net blue whale

ABAT (R) — Moroccan fishermen trawling in the Atlantic off the coast of Morocco netted a 12-metre blue whale, the Moroccan Agency (MAP) said. The 11-metre trawler, which was off the Western Sahara coast, was carrying a captain as well as a crew of 11. The whale, which was 12 metres long and weighed 15 tonnes, was found in the net despite a struggle of more than 10 hours. It was not immediately clear if the whale was dead. AP quoted a manager at the fishery saying the whale was rarely seen in Moroccan waters.

Calls to stop Olympic bird release

LANTA (R) — A coalition of animal rights groups asked organizers of the 1996 Olympics not to use live birds during opening ceremonies at a summer's games in Atlanta. The groups, which included the Humane Society, said the use of live birds during the ceremony was "inhumane" and "not even been together yet."

Tims of fashion land in jail

OTA, Colombia (R) — One fashion designer considered them a crime. Police in Colombia arrested 10 women were arrested for "sporting" lifted shoulder pads. The women were preparing to board a flight from Lima to Miami when they were arrested. The women were charged with "sporting" lifted shoulder pads, which appeared to be a fashion trend. The women were charged with "sporting" lifted shoulder pads, which appeared to be a fashion trend. The women were charged with "sporting" lifted shoulder pads, which appeared to be a fashion trend.

na visits the homeless

NON (R) — Diana, the 11-year-old girl who was found in a car in London, has been found to be a victim of a crime. The girl was found in a car in London, and her parents were charged with "sporting" lifted shoulder pads. The girl was found in a car in London, and her parents were charged with "sporting" lifted shoulder pads. The girl was found in a car in London, and her parents were charged with "sporting" lifted shoulder pads.



CHIRAC IN TUNISIA: Tunisians wave and brandish portraits to greet French President Jacques Chirac and his Tunisian counterpart Zine El Abidine Ben Ali drive through Tunis on Thursday (see page 2) (AFP photo)

Landslides reported as strong quake rattles islands south of Tokyo

TOKYO (AFP) — A strong earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter Scale shook the Izu Islands south of Tokyo Friday, the biggest tremor in a series which has rattled the area over the past week, the Meteorological Agency said.

The quake, which occurred at 9:43 p.m. (1243 GMT), caused several landslides and damaged roads on the island of Kozu, Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reported, adding that water supplies had also been disrupted.

NHK said the Japanese military had sent helicopters to the islands although no injuries were reported.

The intensity of the tremor measured five on the seven-point Japanese scale on Kozu and four on nearby Miyake Island. An intensity of five on the Japanese scale is large enough to cause cracks in plaster walls and concrete buildings.

The quake, whose epicentre was 10 kilometres under the seabed south of the Izu peninsula, followed a smaller tremor 14 minutes earlier.

with a magnitude of 4.0 on the Richter Scale, the agency said.

It was followed by another tremor of 4.0, some 16 minutes after the main earthquake which was felt in a wide area stretching from Yokohama, south of Tokyo, to Hamamatsu near Nagoya and Tateyama at the tip of the Boso peninsula.

The Izu peninsula, a popular resort south of Tokyo, has been the centre of major seismic activity for the past week, including volcanic activity near the city of Ito where a major undersea eruption took place in 1989.

A Japanese seismologist interviewed by NHK said the relatively strong quake late Friday was related to the recent activity in the area, where several tectonic plates meet. But the Meteorological Agency said they were unrelated.

Earlier Friday, volcanic activity around the Izu peninsula weakened but precautions against the "big one" continued, with an offshore research system set up near the epicentre of the

original series of tremors.

Before the stronger quake Friday night, 95 slight jolts were observed during the day, raising the total number of quakes in the area to 8,567 since the previous Friday. The biggest jolt Sunday measured 4.8 on the Richter Scale.

Volcanic activity, first observed Wednesday, weakened Friday but the agency continued receiving data showing signs of such activity, warning that it would continue precautions against a possible eruption or sizeable quake.

"Seismic activity has calmed, but since the Earth's crust continues to move we cannot relax yet," an agency official told Kyodo News Service.

The Maritime Safety Agency set up a remote-controlled research system above the seabed Friday to collect detailed seismic information. It also sent Shoyou, a 1,900-tonne research vessel, to control the system and analyse data.

Bruton urges outside help for N.Ireland peace

DUBLIN (R) — Britain and Ireland are inching towards setting up an international body to try to break the deadlock over disarming Northern Ireland guerrillas, which has brought a year-long peace process to a standstill. Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said in New York Thursday night that the two governments, often at odds over how to break the logjam, were now close to setting up such a panel.

"I believe sufficient common ground will soon exist on this to enable the two governments to proceed relatively quickly to establish such a body," he told Irish-American businessmen.

"I believe we must now adopt this international approach in the Irish situation and do so speedily," he said.

Later this year U.S. President Bill Clinton travels to Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland for what U.S. officials say could be a visit crucial to the peace process.

U.S. involvement has brought foreign policy successes to Mr. Clinton in the Middle East and Bosnia in recent weeks and a breakthrough on Northern Ireland would seal his world reputation as his campaign for re-election is launched.

"Experience in other conflict situations has shown the value of an external, international input in helping opposing sides face up to the realities of the particular conflict situation in which they find themselves," Mr. Bruton said.

Irish officials say the panel could be headed by George Mitchell, a former U.S. senator currently charged with channelling international investment into Northern Ireland and border counties to cement peace.

The idea of an international panel received a setback last month when Sinn Fein, political backers of Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas, said they feared it was a trap to make the gunmen hand over their weapons before all-party talks.

But the two governments hope that by setting it up they can move towards disarming both the IRA, which fought British rule of Northern Ireland, and loyalists, who battled to retain it, and create conditions for fresh negotiations.

Mr. Bruton said it was crucial to create a situation in which gunmen felt they no longer needed arms.

"The Irish government wants to eliminate fear from politics. That is why we want the total eradication of all weapons for good," he said.

Rebel soldiers released; mercenary leaves Comoros

MORONI, Comoros Islands (AP) — Hundreds of Comorian soldiers who surrendered to a French intervention force were released from detention Friday under an amnesty granted to supporters of the short-lived coup led by mercenary Bob Denard.

The soldiers raised their arms and shouted in joy after walking out of Moroni's Habaya Airport, where they were held overnight by French commandos after surrendering the day before.

Mr. Denard, 66, a Frenchman, was reportedly flown Friday under French military custody from the nearby island of La Reunion to Djibouti, where France maintains a military base. He is expected to eventually arrive in France and face criminal charges.

Life began returning to normal in Moroni, the capital, following a turbulent week in which foreign mercenaries led by Mr. Denard toppled the government and seized President Said Mohammed Djohar, then were defeated in a lightning invasion by 600 elite French troops Wednesday. People filled markets

Friday and wooden fishing boats dotted the bays and harbours bordered by sand or dark lava stone. French troops continued to check cars along the main road, but reduced their visibility and began disembarking.

Four people, including two Comorian soldiers, were killed in the French attack. There were no casualties to French forces, French Cdt. Louis Pignot said Friday.

Mr. Djohar's prime minister has announced a new government comprising members of the ruling party and a small opposition alliance without Mr. Djohar, who has been taken to nearby La Reunion for medical tests.

Other opposition groups reject the new government and want talks to set up a consensus leadership that would ask the United Nations to organise elections early next year.

Mr. Denard negotiated his surrender Thursday. He was flown to La Reunion under arrest for illegally leaving France while under investigation for the death of Ahmad Abdallah Abderrahmane, then the president of the Comoros, in 1989. Mr. Denard ruled the dirt-

poor Indian Ocean archipelago, a former French colony, through figurehead presidents from 1978 until the mysterious shooting of Mr. Abderrahmane prompted France to negotiate his departure six years ago.

The surrender probably ends the career of Mr. Denard, Africa's most notorious soldier of fortune. Mr. Denard said before leaving Thursday that he expects to end up in a French prison — an ignominious end to a career that has included fighting and coups since 1961 in the Belgian Congo, Nigeria, Angola, Zimbabwe, Iran and Yemen.

Released Comorian soldiers said they were treated well by the French, who simply held them overnight and let them go. Several said that foreign forces, whether mercenary or French, should leave.

"First the mercenaries come and make trouble," said Corp. Asman Hamadi Soco, 32, a nine-year veteran. "Then the French come and make more trouble. They shoot people, take possessions, damage the airport."

"They treat us like nothing because they can dance in

here anytime."

He said soldiers wanted a new military chief to replace Azali Assoumani, the chief of staff under Mr. Djohar who took refuge in the French embassy after the coup.

Mr. Assoumani was seen in a car travelling from the airport toward town Friday, showing he felt it was safe enough to move about. It was not known if Prime Minister Mohammed Caabi Al Yachrouout also had emerged from a week of hiding in the embassy.

Mr. Soco would prefer Capt. Combo Ayoubu, who led troops loyal to Mr. Denard's coup, as the new military chief. Capt. Ayoubu's whereabouts were unknown Friday. Cdt. Pignot, the French military spokesman, said he had no information.

The amnesty included Capt. Ayoubu and other military officers who supported the coup. But Capt. Ayoubu, who was jailed by Mr. Djohar after a failed 1992 coup, has said he feared recriminations by leaders linked to Mr. Djohar.



Residents survey the damage in a street of Panama City Beach, Florida, in the aftermath of hurricane Opal (AFP photo)

Cleanup under way as hurricane death toll rises

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. (R) — The remnants of hurricane Opal scattered across the northeastern United States and eastern Canada Friday as rescue teams searched islands off the Florida coast for residents whose whereabouts were unknown.

Opal, which disintegrated Thursday as it raced north after making landfall in Florida, is believed responsible for up to 21 deaths, including as many as 11 in the United States and 10 in Mexico.

The storm left hundreds of thousands of people without electricity in Florida, Georgia and Alabama. Downed trees and power lines forced the closure of schools and many businesses in Atlanta as the city

struggled to cope with flooded creeks, rivers and streets.

As residents and disaster workers began a massive cleanup from the third hurricane to hit the Florida panhandle this year, officials say up to two dozen people who may have decided to wait out the storm on the exposed barrier islands off the Florida coast are unaccounted for.

Emergency management officials said searchers, including local authorities, the U.S. military and special urban search and rescue teams from as far away as Virginia and Charleston, South Carolina, were combing devastated areas of Okaloosa Island, Holiday Isle and the town of Destin.

"Our main concern is that

although a mandatory evacuation order was issued, people chose to stay behind, and we cannot account for a couple of dozen," said Marc Steinman, Emergency Medical Services manager. He said authorities are particularly concerned about an area called Norrigo Point, a densely populated and heavily developed community.

According to a preliminary estimate by the insurance information institute, Opal caused \$1.8 billion in damages to insured property in Florida alone. The storm's toll was certain to rise when estimates were made in Georgia — where 45 counties were declared disaster areas by Governor Zell Miller — and other affected states.

Georgia officials said four people had been killed by falling trees and local media reported three other deaths in storm-related traffic accidents. Opal also claimed two lives in Alabama, one in North Carolina, and one in Florida.

The Red Cross said 197 shelters were up and running, serving more than 31,000 victims in five states.

In the shore communities of the Florida panhandle, hit two months ago by hurricane Erin, residents began to regroup once again. Teams of disaster relief workers were combing through Destin and a peninsular community of Holiday Isle, which authorities said was underwater at one point.

Breeze helps California firefighters

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A cool Pacific breeze aided firefighters battling Friday to halt a huge wildfire that has destroyed dozens of luxury homes and burned thousands of acres of a California wildlife refuge.

The fire, burning in scenic woods and brush on the northern California coast, spread to 11,100 acres (4,450 hectares) Thursday, said Leslie Price, a fire information officer.

The blaze has destroyed 47 buildings, including dozens of luxury homes, and damaged a dozen more in secluded wooded hillsides near Inverness, 50 kilometres north of San Francisco. A preliminary estimate put property damage at between \$20 million and \$30 million, Mr. Price said.

The fire, the largest in Marin County since 1928, has burned thousands of acres in the Point Reyes National Seashore, a national park that is home to many animals including blacktail and white fallow deer, gray foxes and spotted owls.

More than 2,000 firefighters managed to contain 60 per cent of the blaze by Thursday. Their estimate of when the blaze would be fully contained was pushed back by a day to midnight Saturday.

However, officials took heart from a change in the weather Thursday. A cool, moist breeze began blowing off the Pacific Ocean, bringing relief from hot, dry winds. Firefighters hope the sea breeze will "cool every-

thing down, moisten up the vegetation and air so things aren't so explosive," Mr. Price said.

Firefighters were concentrating on stopping the fire from threatening more homes Thursday and were also trying to stop it spreading into huge stands of old-growth forest to the south. Fire officials said the fire could get a new lease of life if it reaches the dry redwoods and Douglas firs.

The fire was started Tuesday by the embers of an illegal campfire, officials say. The blaze spread quickly because vegetation is bone dry in the area after a hot summer.

Four firefighters have suffered minor injuries.

Victim's father to pursue civil suit against Simpson

LOS ANGELES (R) — In a sign that O. J. Simpson's legal troubles are far from over, the father of murder victim Ron Goldman is vowing to press ahead with a wrongful-death lawsuit that could cost the football legend millions.

Fred Goldman, in a brief interview with Reuters late Thursday night, said his family intends to pursue the civil suit despite Simpson's acquittal on double-murder charges.

Lead defence attorney Johnnie Cochran had appealed earlier to the victims' families to drop their complaints, which — like the criminal case — accuse Simpson of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Goldman.

"At some point there should be closure on this. The jury has spoken and I have said to the families 'rethink this — you should

look at what the jury said and not pursue these suits,'" he told reporters.

Asked if he would follow Mr. Cochran's advice, Mr. Goldman shook his head slowly and said firmly: "Not a chance."

While Simpson faces no threat of jail in a civil trial, he could be forced to testify, would need more than "reasonable doubt" to convince a jury to exonerate him and may end up paying millions in damages if he loses.

The suit — which says Simpson's conduct was "willful, wanton and outrageous beyond the ability of ordinary human beings to comprehend" — is one of three civil actions that he faces but is the only one likely to make it to trial.

Speculation is that the Brown family will drop their suit as part of their effort to reconcile with Simpson for the good of the two young children he

fathered with his ex-wife. And experts believe a suit filed by Ron Goldman's mother, Susan Rufo, who is divorced from his father, will be dismissed because of her long estrangement from her 25-year-old son.

When a mostly black jury acquitted Simpson Tuesday, the Goldmans were left sobbing in disbelief.

But that grief soon turned to rage, and on ABC's Nightline Friday night, Mr. Goldman said: "There wasn't justice for Ron and Nicole and there wasn't justice for this nation. It was turned into a nightmare."

After the programme, Mr. Goldman made clear that he believed Simpson should pay the price for murder in cash. Asked whether his family can handle another wrenching trial, he said: "Nothing can be as terrible to us as what happened on June 12, 1994. We can take it."

British murder scene 'too terrible for words'

WINCHESTER, England (R) — Young women whose decapitated bodies were found at the home of alleged serial killer Rosemary West spent their last moments as objects of the "sexual depravity" of Mrs. West and her husband, a prosecutor said Friday.

Police searching for the Wests' missing daughter Heather found nine bodies, one of them a pregnant girl, in a scene "more terrible than words could express", prosecutor Brian Leveson told a jury of four women and eight men.

The 41-year-old mother of seven is charged with 10 murders. She denies the charges.

Her husband, Frederick, was charged with 12 murders but was found hanged in his prison cell before he could stand trial.

Police diggers looking for Heather, 16, found not only

her skeleton but the dismembered skeletal remains of eight other young women, Mr. Leveson said.

Eight of the nine bodies had been decapitated and most were missing a number of bones.

"Each was dumped without decency or respect in a different hole some three feet (a metre) below the ground in the garden, in the cellar, or underneath a bathroom," he said. "One of the victims carried a foetus to its ninth month of gestation."

Mr. Leveson described the gruesome discoveries within minutes of opening the prosecution's case against Mrs. West in a hushed and tense courtroom.

He said life at the house at 25 Cromwell Street in Gloucester had "been described in graphic detail by visitors."

"Other girls who came and

went over the years have spoken of violent and degrading sexual activity, perhaps revealing things which they have long since been prepared to cover up, kept hidden or forgotten," he said.

"The upshot is this case: The crown alleges that over a period of many years, especially between 1972 and 1979, girls staying at or visiting 25 Cromwell Street, or who were enticed or simply abducted, were taken there for sexual abuse — both by Rosemary and Frederick West — in a most depraved and most appalling way."

Heather, the oldest daughter of Frederick and Rosemary West, disappeared at the age of 16 in June 1987.

"Her parents did not report her missing and made no inquiries about her. The reason is simple — they knew

that she was dead because both of them had been involved in killing her," Mr. Leveson said.

People who asked about Heather were told that she had left home, and, perhaps because of her age, her disappearance did not attract official attention for years.

But by 1992 questions were being asked. When police interviewed Rosemary, she told them she had heard from Heather on the telephone.

Suspicious authorities continued looking, and on Feb. 24, 1994, a search warrant was issued for the Wests' home.

Two days later police diggers unearthed a skeleton under the patio. The skull had been struck from the spine, Mr. Leveson said, and the bones had been chopped so that the remains could be forced into a small hole.

Opinion & Analysis

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Of postures and playing politics

THE ISRAELI KNESSET narrowly approved the Oslo II accord with the Palestinians and gave the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin only a semblance of a new lease of life. The wide split in the Israeli parliament and among Israelis does not augur well for the third and last stage of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip when the stakes are greater. The growing schism in the Israeli body politic prompted Israeli President Weizman to call on Mr. Rabin to solicit wider support before he continues on the path of expanded Palestinian self-rule government.

If the country is divided over a limited agreement that aims only to remove direct Israeli military occupation from half a dozen Palestinian cities or towns, we can imagine the more profound crisis that lies ahead when the time comes for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to assume greater control over the destiny of its people. The Israeli prime minister and his team of advisers went to great length throughout the Knesset debate on the second stage agreement, to assure the Israeli people that Israel will continue to enjoy effective control over the entire West Bank, including the Jordan Valley, and that a Palestinian state is not really in the offing.

This bottom line posture must be taken seriously and not as a mere political tactic aiming to win wider support for the Labour government. This last word on the future of Palestinian self-rule runs counter to the Palestinian yearning for independence and statehood, as was repeatedly reflected in the words of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and echoed recently by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa who stipulated the establishment of a Palestinian state is a sine qua non for regional peace.

Many Israeli opponents to a reasonable deal with the Palestinians, including members of the Likud Party, base their concerns, inter alia, on some references in the Palestinian charter that suggest the PLO maintain its claim on the entire Palestinian territory. Those opponents see in the creation of a Palestinian state the re-birth of a ghost and with it the resurrection of the Palestinian national claim to the whole of Palestine at one stage or another. Such people would rather not see a Palestinian state for fear of being haunted by it forever.

The Palestinian side, on the other hand, counters these Israeli fears by referring to various Zionist platforms and symbolisms that stake a claim to territories that extend, not only to the West Bank, but also to Arab lands beyond it. It would seem just and proper, therefore, that the Israeli side make the necessary denunciations of old Zionist dreams before it can expect similar assurances from the Palestinian side. Then, and only then, the two peoples can co-exist without real or imaginary fears of what the future may hold for them.

In any case, more needs to be done by both parties to win over hard-liners and sceptics still opposed to what has been painstakingly attained on the Palestinian front, unless of course such elements are only playing politics, intending to gain political power by first whipping up Palestinian and Israeli fears and then cashing in on such anxieties.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily drew attention to the concurrence of the Libyan leader's expulsion of Palestinians with a Libyan media campaign demanding the end to U.N. sanctions imposed on Tripoli. It is strange and shocking to see Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi use the sufferings of the Palestinian people as a tool to attract world attention to the need for lifting the sanctions, said the paper. Qadhafi's outrageous act, condemned by the world community, can by no means end the sanctions unless Libya hands over the two suspects for the downing of the Pan-Am plane (over Lockerbie in 1989); and the sufferings of the Palestinians will not end unless Israel opens its doors for them to return, stressed the daily. The deportation of the Palestinians to the desert and the deprivation of their basic needs is a shameful act that has no justification, except that Qadhafi is trying to draw the world attention to the sanctions to which his country has been demanding an end, added the daily. The paper said that the illogical and unpredictable behaviour of Qadhafi will not earn him the sympathy of the world, but will, instead, strengthen the belief that his country cannot be trusted when it claims it had nothing to do with the aircraft tragedy.

COMMENTING ON a report in one of the national weeklies that alleged Japan's financial aid to Jordan has been deposited in a secret account in Switzerland of a prominent Jordanian columnist Mohammad Subeichi said that the government should take prompt action to verify the truth of this report. The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, said the weekly's report that JD 50 million had been deposited in the bank, should not be taken lightly and investigation into the case should be launched immediately. If the investigation proves the report false, the paper should apologise and be discredited, but if it proves to be true then the suspected person should be tried for two crimes: for stealing JD 50 million from the Jordanian people and also for weakening Jordan's credibility before the world, said the writer. In numerous cases the world media has been instrumental in helping authorities uncover plots, robberies and many other crimes and therefore prompt action is required at the highest levels, demanded the writer, who added that whatever the outcome of the investigations, democracy will be enhanced and the country's credibility protected.

Jordanian Perspective

Jordan could be a Transatlantic bridge at MENA

By Dr. Musa Keilani

WE ARE three weeks away from a major event in our history — the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit. Our officials and media are very busy preparing for the Oct. 29-31 event, which, by all counts, holds out promises of being a landmark in our efforts for economic development and self-reliance after a very painful period.

We have been hearing Jordanian officials voicing high optimism of the outcome of the conference while diplomats appear to be divided over whether the event itself would witness the launching of multi-billion dollar projects.

We have heard scepticism from many that the summit may not turn out to be the event that many Jordanians want it to be. So then the question arises: What do Jordanians expect from the summit? Pledges of billions of dollars of aid to Jordan? Announcements that American, European and Japanese companies coming in with billions to invest in the Jordan Valley?

One really has to be naive to expect such results from the summit.

There are some realities that we have to accept and appreciate. Among them is the fact that the very onus of economic development being on the private sector, we cannot expect any major pronouncements of deals and contracts at the summit itself. The reason is simple: The private sector does not believe in diplomatic gestures. It takes consideration a multitude of factors, including the investment climate, bureaucracy, relevant legislation and enforcement, rate of return on investments and protection for capital, before making any decision to invest. The Amman summit could make little difference to them except of course that they would be looking for concrete signs of a government commitment to liberalisation of trade and economy. Other than that, the businessmen attending the summit would follow their own leads before deciding whether to come into Jordan with capital. As such, people looking for announcements of private sector investments in Jordan and the region would be disappointed. That is not to say that there will not be investments, but that such

decisions would be taken away from media limelight.

Of course, some decisions have already been taken, others might be advanced at the summit while yet some others are poised to reach agreements after the summit. But all these decisions depend largely upon how Jordan presents itself before, during and after the summit and what measures it adopts to further liberalise trade and economy and how quickly it implements these measures. That is on the government side. On the private sector side, it is largely upto our businessmen to convince their international counterparts of their ability to live up to expectations in terms of efficiency and innovation.

Having said that, however, we also have to recognise that the United States, the main driving force behind the effort to hold the economic development of our region, has made some basic commitments. Translated into practical action, these would mean a minimum level of American-government assisted projects in Jordan.

That Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown will be leading the U.S. delegation to the summit reflects the seriousness with which the Clinton administration views its commitments to Jordan and the region. Coupled with that are the numerous meetings, workshops and roundtables that the U.S. embassy in Amman organised in the past months to bring together all interested parties in a bid to develop understanding between the American and Jordanian private sectors.

Added with that is the \$250 million allocation for the Middle East and North Africa that the Clinton administration has given to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, which specialises in promoting American businesses outside the U.S. This amount has a multiplying effect, in that it would be used to finance the capitalisation of up to 25 per cent of American equity in MENA projects.

Japan is expected to be another key player at the summit. Statements by Japanese leaders and officials clearly indicate Tokyo's understanding of the reality that many in the Middle East, particularly in Jordan, are

pinning hopes that the MENA summit would be the launching pad for economic development. We do not know yet what will the strength of the Japanese delegation, but we are highly hopeful that it would of a nature that fits in with our expectations that Japanese firms — long known to be on the lookout for assembly plants and manufacturing facilities outside Japan — will take a keen interest in the potential available in Jordan.

The pointed references to the U.S. and Japan does in now way play down the European role in the Middle East and North Africa. But let us accept it: The Europeans, as represented by the European Union, appear to have a divided approach to the MENA summit as an event. For many of the European Union countries, the main event is the Barcelona summit coming up in November rather than the Amman conference. That is understandable if only because these countries note that the European Union would be in firm control of the situation at the Barcelona event while the U.S. is the dominant factor in the Amman summit.

However, there need not be any contradiction between the two events. If anything, they could be complementary.

For starters, there are many areas where American firms lead the international scene just as the Europeans do in other areas. It would be a major accomplishment for us Jordanians if our private sector and economic experts are successful in pinpointing the areas of advantages and disadvantages of all sides.

However, the overriding factor — away from the typical diplomatic U.S. vs. Europe approach — remains that international businesses do not necessarily look at the nationality of their partners as long as the economic feasibility and returns on investments are guaranteed. That means, in effect, that Jordanian businesses could even be instrumental in bringing together European and American firms together on a Jordanian fulcrum.

It is a challenge that faces us. Hopefully, we would be able to live up to it.

Writers blast Qadhafi over expulsion of Palestinians

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

LIBYA'S continued expulsion of the Palestinians and the repercussions of the Israel-Palestine Taba agreement which was signed in Washington as well as a host of domestic issues continued to dominate the local Arabic press in the past week.

Writing under the title of: The Fourth Exodus, Al Ra'i columnist Zuleikha Abu Rishbeh said that the Libyan leader has found in the Palestinian-Israeli agreements an excuse to rid his country of the Palestinians who had contributed to Libya's construction and progress for decades. Acting cruelly and inhumanely Muammar Qadhafi is committing a crime against these people who have witnessed oppression, deportation and eviction first from their own homeland and second from certain Arab states, said the writer.

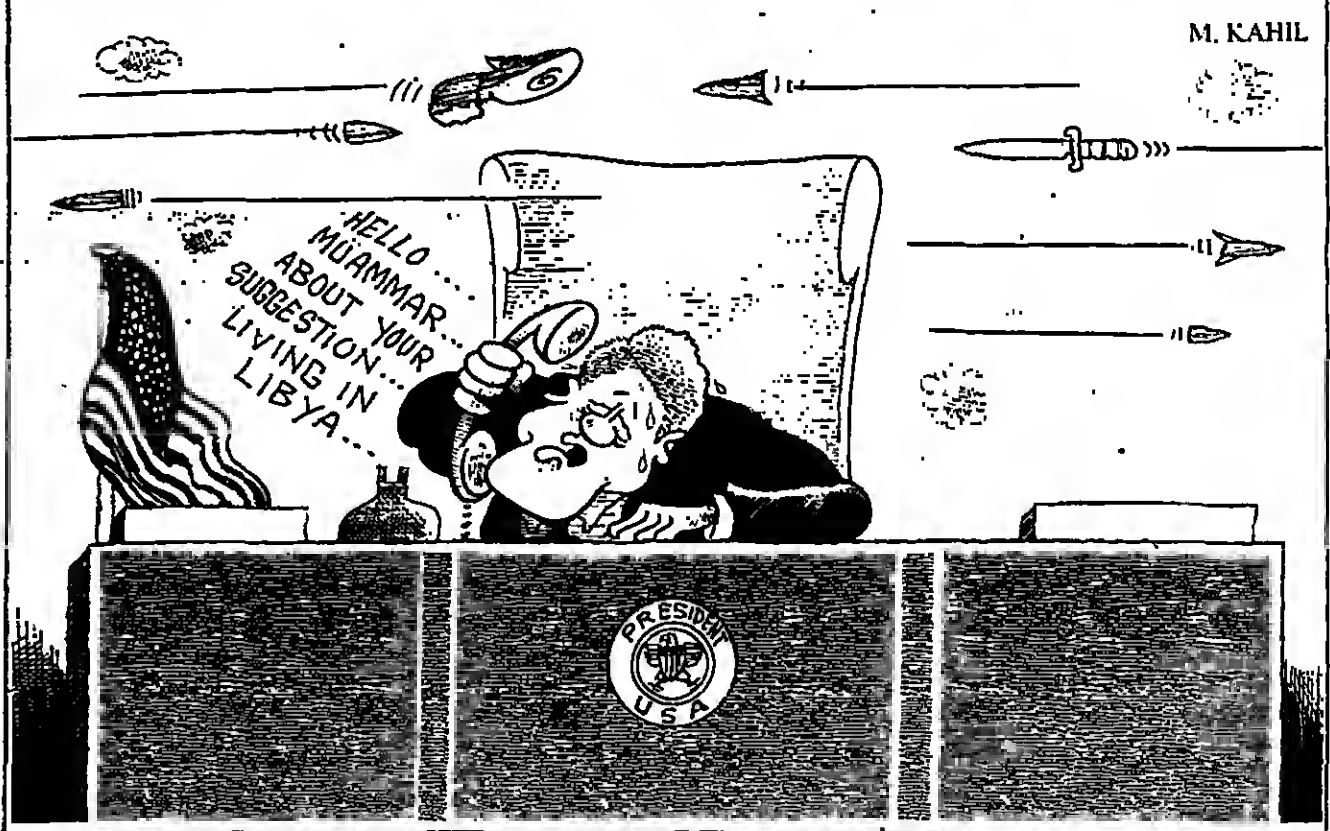
The Palestinians in Libya do not necessarily agree with Arafat and the Oslo agreement but still they are evicted from Libya on the grounds that they now have a home to settle in and a president and government to handle their affairs, added the writer, who is ironic, she said, is to see Qadhafi offering to pay the expenses for the defence of a former Italian prime minister accused of corruption and bribery and ordering the expulsion of homeless Palestinian Arabs from his Arab country which continues to brag about the need to unite the Arab nation.

A writer in Al Dustour described Libya's expulsion of the Palestinians as a dangerous gambit that should open the eyes of the Arab nation and the world at large to the need for the Palestinians to be repatriated to their Palestine homeland. Tabar Al Adwan said that the Israeli government which continues to close the door before the Palestinians return and Syria, Egypt and Lebanon which refuse to receive the evicted Palestinians from Libya together bear a serious responsibility towards the Palestinians. The writer said that it is true that Libya is committing a crime against the Palestinians but Arab states share the blame for failing to help and the Palestinian people's plight by refusing to host them until the time has come for their repatriation.

Ali Safadi a writer in Al Dustour said that Qadhafi has followed in the footsteps of the Nazi leaders of Germany by 'creating concentration camps' for unwanted people, depriving them of their basic human rights. The writer said that this shameful act reflects the dreams of an unstable person to attain glory at the expense of the misery of others, a behaviour that has won him the enmity of the world. Noting that Qadhafi might have resorted to expelling the Palestinians as a means for drawing the world's attention to Libya's predicament caused by the UN sanctions, the writer said that Libya's leader has proved that he is totally devoid of any humanitarian sentiments and is intent only to attain selfish goals and dreams.

Lauding the efforts of the Palestinian negotiators with Israel for clinching the Taba agreement, a writer in Al Ra'i called on the Arab states to extend all possible support to the Palestinian leadership to help it pursue efforts for regaining most of the usurped territories of Palestine. Mohammad Qaryuti said that it is true that the Taba agreement falls short of achieving the aspirations of the Palestinian people but in the face of the overwhelming odds the Palestinians have no alternative but to accept what has been offered them and continue struggling for more. The writer said that it is true that most of the Palestinian lands will remain under Israel's control but rejecting any agreement with Israel can by no means secure the return of even a small part of the lost territory.

Expressing deep satisfaction over the signing of the Taba agreement which enables the Palestinians to expand their self rule, a writer in Al Ra'i said that the Palestinians are no doubt happy at achieving one more step towards creating their own independent state. Tawfiq Abul Rub said that under the agreement Israeli forces pull out from Palestinian towns to be substituted by Palestinian police force, thus no more confrontation between Palestinian youths and Israeli troops is expected and no more blood is shed. The writer



said that the majority of Arab people are optimistic that they will see the Arab land returning in full to their legitimate owners in the long run noting that the agreement signed in Washington is bound to open the door for the Palestinians to regain their full rights step by step.

Commenting on the Palestine president's address at the White House signing of the Taba agreement, a writer in Al Dustour said that his call for making Jerusalem as the capital of world peace and a symbol of peace between the Palestinian and the Israeli people had had its impact on his audience and the world at large. Abdullah Al Qaq said that with his words Arafat has conveyed to the world that the Palestinian leadership is totally committed to the peace process in deed rather than words. The writer said that the agreement constitutes a turning point in the life of both the Israelis and the Palestinians who have got tired of war and bloodshed and are opting for a permanent peace.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's address at the white house ceremony for the signing of the Taba agreement, Salah Jarrar, a writer in Al Ra'i said that Rabin has seized the opportunity in order the present to the world a picture of the Jews whom he claimed to be the victims of acts of terrorism. In his speech Rabin has referred to the buses that

were blown up by the Palestinian resistance as acts of terrorism while the world at large realises the fact that it is the Israelis who have been persecuting the Palestinians and committing all kinds of atrocities against them over the last 50 years. The writer said that while Rabin tried to deny the Palestinian people their right to resist occupation he painted a picture of the Jews as victims of terrorism and need sympathy and protection and support from the world. The world, said the writer can never forget the massacres committed against the Palestinians at the hands of the Israelis who never lose a moment in their attempts to consolidate their occupation of Palestine and hegemony over the Arab region.

In Fahd Fanek's view, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' suggestion that a confederation be set up between the Palestinians and Jordan is aimed at including Jordan in addition to Palestine under the umbrella of Israeli domination. The columnist who writes for Al Ra'i daily said that with this suggestion Israel is also aiming at killing the Palestinian people's dream of establishing an independent Palestine state close to Israel. The writer also said that by creating a Jordanian Palestinian confederation Israel is certain that the confederal government will make it impossible for any group to

launch attacks on Israel. He said with the Palestinians and the Jordanians forming a united confederal state, the long-time Israeli dream of finding a substitute homeland for the Palestinians would be fulfilled.

Salah Qallab, a writer in Al Dustour, predicted that the U.S. administration will now focus its attention to promote the peace process on the Israeli Syrian track. Now that the Israeli Palestinian agreement has been signed expanding the self-rule areas, the Americans are hopeful that the Syrians will be encouraged to come forward and step up efforts to reach an accord with Israel over the Golan, said the writer. In addition said the writer the Clinton administration is putting its weight behind the Amman economic summit in order to lend further support to the Taba agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and to lay the cornerstone for the new Middle East order in which all peoples and all states can work together for collective security and development. He said that the Americans are desperate to get Syria involved in the peace process because it is convinced that no lasting peace can be achieved in its absence.

A writer in Al Dustour warned against the execution of a court order, on evicting the residents of Al Hussein refugee camp from their homes. Yasser Zatreh reminded the govern-

ment that the hundreds of thousands of people living in these camps hold full Jordanian nationality on the one hand and that they are refugees living in Jordan since the 1948 war on the other. The writer said since the fate of the 1948 refugees has been left for the final phase of the peace process, these people have the right to continue living in Jordan. He said that the government ought to find a way to guarantee the refugees the right to stay in their camps until a final decision has been taken on their fate and not to leave them as victims to their worries and facing the unknown.

Al Dustour columnist Fakhri Kawar commented on the recent killing of a government school student at the hands of his colleagues by saying that the schools are in need of social reform as much as the educational process in Jordan. He said that the public have been hearing reports about teachers beating students and of shameful acts of violence among the students and finally murder, which shows a greater need for genuine reform. The writer said while investigations by the security services into the latest violence continue, the ministry of education is duty-bound to take its own action that will ensure safe and sound atmosphere for the students to learn and to be good citizens free of any tendency towards violence in their society.

Knesset passes self-rule agreement

(Continued from page 1)

Under the accord, Israeli troops will gradually withdraw from Palestinian population centres in the West Bank to allow for wider self-rule and Palestinian elections.

In Palestinian-ruled Gaza, Mr. Arafat said he was not surprised by the Knesset's decision.

"This was expected. Actually, I can't imagine that they would refuse what he had agreed before," he told reporters. Asked when he thought Israeli redeployment would begin, Mr. Arafat said: "Within days."

Government opponents in Israel said the agreement

would pave the way for the establishment of a Palestinian state in all of the land seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

The close parliamentary vote and defection of two Labour members showed how support for Mr. Rabin's centre-left coalition has shrunk in the Knesset since the 1993 landmark accord with the PLO which established self-rule in Gaza and Jericho in May 1994.

That first agreement, reached after decades of enmity, received solid support in Israel's parliament, passing by a vote of 61-50.

The leftist government, under the guise of implementing the autonomy plan... is waiting today for a

Palestinian state," opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu told parliament on Thursday. "Mr. Prime Minister, this is your vision."

Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Rabin are running neck-to-neck in Israeli opinion polls.

The Israeli cabinet and the PLO Executive Committee already endorsed the deal to extend autonomy, before Rabin and Mr. Arafat signed it in Washington. "This government has decided to give peace a chance," Mr. Rabin said at the start of the session on Thursday. He described the accord as "a major step in the settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

He insisted that Israel would hold on to greater

Jerusalem, including the eastern sector, under a final settlement to be hammered out after the five-year period of interim Palestinian autonomy.

Israel would also keep the Jordan Valley and some settlements, notably near Bethlehem in the West Bank, the prime minister argued, over several interruptions from hecklers.

"The future border will be to the east of the ceasefire line of June 4, 1967," before the war in which Israel seized Arab Jerusalem as well as the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said Mr. Rabin.

The West Bank deal would lead to a separate "Palestinian entity... but less than a state," the prime minister reiterated.

Reports conflict over PNA-Hamas deal

(Continued from page 1)

latter "showed goodwill and released the prisoners as well as halted all oppressive measures against the movement."

But he said that Hamas would not be willing to stop its attacks, not even from PLO-ruled areas, because that would constitute the movement giving up one of its main strategic options.

Hamas' leaders abroad have adopted a much harder line than activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Even if an agreement is approved, Hamas might not be able to control rogue gunmen in its ranks.

Hamas is Mr. Arafat's main political rival and the leading opponent to the Israel-PLO autonomy agreements. It has carried out a series of suicide bus bombings in Israel in an attempt to derail the peace talks.

The bombings have killed dozens of Israelis over the past two years and have been largely responsible for eroding public support in Israel for the peace talks with the Palestinians.

Israeli Housing Minister

Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said Friday he was ready to give the group the benefit of the doubt. "If Hamas, like the PLO, gets up tomorrow and says, 'I am turning over a new leaf,' we shouldn't just toss it aside," he told Israel Radio. "We have nothing to lose."

An official in Mr. Arafat's government said Friday that the agreement, if approved, could spell an end to Hamas attacks on Israelis.

As the PLO takes control of West Bank towns and villages over the next few months, the number of possible launching sites for Hamas attacks will be sharply reduced, said the official.

Sheikh Jamal Mansour, a Hamas leader in the West Bank town of Nablus, said any draft would have to be approved by the leadership abroad. He said that in principle, he supported an end to attacks.

"We are for conciliation and stability, and we want to participate in the political fabric," he said.

Hamas and PNA officials have been negotiating for months in an attempt to work

out the terms of political participation for Hamas.

The dialogue was interrupted repeatedly after Hamas carried out fresh bombings and PNA police rounded up the group's leaders in response.

However, the negotiations continued and several weeks ago, Hamas officials said they had taken secret steps to set up a political party ahead of Palestinian elections this spring.

In the latest signal of reconciliation, Mr. Arafat this week permitted the Hamas weekly Al Watan to resume publication. He had shut down the newspaper two months ago after it published an article critical of the PLO chairman.

A Hamas official said the Palestinian police has rounded up at least 30 activists of Hamas.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the arrests were made late Wednesday in the southern border town of Rafah. He said the police gave no explanation for their action.

No immediate confirma-

tion was available from the Palestinian police.

Israel on Thursday asked the United States to extradite the political leader of Hamas.

Israel wants to try Musa Abu Marzouk on charges of murder and conspiracy, said justice ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed.

In its 900-page extradition request, Israel said Mr. Abu Marzouk was involved in planning several bus bombings, including explosions in 1994 in towns of Tel Aviv, Afula and Hadera that killed 37 people. Ms. Eshed said Israel submitted evidence linking Mr. Abu Marzouk directly to the blasts.

Mr. Abu Marzouk was detained at Kennedy International Airport on July 25 after his name showed up on a list of suspects. Mr. Abu Marzouk has lived in the United States for 14 years.

In August, the U.S. government began extradition proceedings against him, arresting him on Israeli charges of terrorism. A complaint unsealed at the hearing said Mr. Abu Marzouk is head of the Hamas political bureau, the top leadership group.

The next hearing is scheduled for Oct. 17.

Syria maintains hardline in talks

(Continued from page 1)

Syria remains committed to the peace process launched in October 1991.

After Thursday's talks with Mr. Christopher, Mr. Sharaa said:

"We have agreed that we will continue discussions in order to find out what is the best way to resume peace talks between Syria and Israel."

He accused Israel of reneging on previously agreed principles for security arrangements and reiterated Syrian opposition to an Israeli military presence on the Golan Heights.

"That is out of the question. No ground presence on the Golan Heights, this is in contradiction with the principles which we reached (with Israel) on security arrange-

ments," the Syrian minister told reporters.

The principles include demilitarised zones, early warning systems and other items. Syria has rejected Israeli proposals for early warning posts on Syrian soil and proposed aerial surveillance instead, something Mr. Sharaa mentioned on Thursday.

"Syria believes there can never be a just, comprehensive peace in the region without full withdrawal of Israel from the Golan Heights to the line of June 4, 1967, and from south of Lebanon... these are the bases on which we can resume the peace talks," he said.

Despite the lack of an agreement to resume negotiations with Israel, Mr. Sharaa described his talks with Mr. Christopher as good and constructive and insisted

Syria remains committed to the prospect of pursuing peace with the Jewish state.

With the new Israeli-PLO accord as a backdrop, Washington has been aiming to break the impasse between Syria and Israel, the last major obstacle to a comprehensive Middle East peace. But as Thursday's talks began, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns held out little hope of an early breakthrough.

"Our expectations are that this is going to be very difficult," Mr. Burns said of prospects for getting Israel and Syria to resume direct talks on security issues.

U.S. officials are hoping the latest Israel-PLO pact will clear the way for all parties to refocus efforts on the Israeli-Syrian peace track after three months of no visi-

ble progress.

Israel and the United States say Syria reneged on a deal to hold follow-up talks by lower-level military officers.

But Mr. Sharaa called this just a "detail" and insisted "Syria was not the side that stalled negotiations."

In separate comments, Gen. Sbihi also warned of a fresh war in the region.

"What Israel wants is to resolve the problem its own way by perpetuating its occupation of Arab land, obliterating the legitimate Arab rights and reaching separate, fragile agreements that do not secure a solid base for a just and durable peace," Gen. Sbihi told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Bayan.

"This, in our opinion, will only lead to intensified Israeli aggression and permanent tension that increases the possibility of a fresh war."

Fighting in Bosnia for pre-truce gains

(Continued from page 1)

join those of our allies under NATO command with clear rules of engagement."

Russia, welcoming the Bosnian ceasefire agreement, hinted that a way may be worked out to allow the Russian military to take part in a NATO-led peace force.

As NATO defence ministers met to discuss ways of tying Russia into the peace implementation force, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev was quoted as saying that Russia "should not be allergic to all NATO operations."

President Boris Yeltsin threw his backing behind the ceasefire shortly after it was announced on Thursday, saying the main thing was for it to be strictly observed once it came into effect next Tuesday.

U.N. officials in Zagreb said that about 1,000 Croatian army soldiers had crossed the border into Bosnia's northwestern Bihać enclave, heightening the chances of new flareups with rebel Serbs. On Thursday, they

had reported 100 Croatian soldiers in the region.

Croatian troops were crucial to a joint government-Croat offensive that won back wide swaths of territory from the Serbs during recent months. Croatia is not a party to the ceasefire, but Mr. Holbrooke said in Zagreb Thursday that Croatian "participation has been indispensable" in reaching it.

Troops continued jockeying for position in north-west Bosnia. Bosnian Serb

television reported late Thursday that Serb fighters advancing on government-held Kljuc had entered the town, 140 kilometres north-west of Sarajevo. The United Nations could not confirm that Friday, saying it had no presence in the region.

As a sign of expectations for the accord, the United Nations announced it would soon begin reducing its peacekeeping force in Bosnia by about one-third, to 21,000 troops. U.N. officials in Sarajevo said Friday the first pullouts should start by the end of the month.

Blast injures 13 in Paris

(Continued from page 1)

his coffin to a grave, the newspaper Le Monde published a 1992 interview in which Kelkal poured out his grievances against France, complaining bitterly there was no justice for Arabs.

"Frankly, as Arabs, justice is not for us," he told the interviewer, a German sociologist. "There are two levels of justice."

Kelkal, a 24-year-old petty delinquent who became France's most wanted man, was shot dead in an exchange of gunfire with paramilitary gendarmes last Friday after a three-day manhunt.

His fingerprints had been found on a bomb that failed to explode beside a high-speed rail line in August. Five other bombs since July killed seven people and wounded more than 130.

Kelkal's death sparked a controversy over whether police shot him in self-defence or finished him off in cold blood. For the past

week, riots have rocked the suburbs of Vaux-en-Velin, crowded with unemployed immigrant families, where he lived.

Fearing Kelkal could become a hero for France's rootless Muslim youth, the authorities tried to minimise news coverage of his funeral. The local police chief appealed for "respect for his family and responsible behaviour."

French television quoted police sources as saying Friday's blast was likely of criminal origin, but that the explosion was not as powerful as previous bombings that shook France since July.

But officials said the explosion came from a gas canister loaded with nuts and bolts, similar to others planted since late July.

A mailman discovered a suspicious bag in the trash can and alerted police who cordoned off the area, but the explosion took place before a bomb squad arrived, police said.

Egypt, Libya

(Continued from page 1)

Libya and must end in Libya. Either Libya allows the Palestinians to return to their homes there or Israel allows them into the Gaza Strip," Mr. Subeili said.

The Palestinian Group Hamas appealed to Col. Qadhafi on Thursday to put an immediate stop to the expulsions.

"We call on our brother Moammar Qadhafi to go back immediately on his unjustifiable decision," the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said in a statement.

Cult leader is detained

(Continued from page 1)

come the cult's most visible member and its de-facto leader, for what reports said was involvement with perjury in a court case over a cult land transaction.

"We deplore these expulsions, especially since we were expecting Qadhafi to announce during his press conference relations between the two peoples and humanitarian and judicial considerations."

Hamas, which opposes the Israel-PLO autonomy accord, said: "The way the Libyan authorities are going about the expulsion of Palestinians is likely to increase the pressure on the Palestinian people and force them to accept an unjust settlement."

Mr. Joyu, whose boyish good looks and frequent television appearances have gained him a following of young Japanese women, has led the cult since its leader, Shoko Asahara, was arrested May 16 for allegedly masterminding a March 20 nerve gas attack on Tokyo subways. Mr. Asahara's trial starts Oct. 26.



This young Afghan girl (above) stepped on a mine near her village and the Cambodian child below leads his cattle through the mine field surrounding his village (ICRC photo)



The landmines carnage

THE REVIEW Conference of the 1980 U.N. Weapons Convention (1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects) is currently being held in Vienna to discuss proposed amendments as recommended by the Group of Governmental Experts.

The group of 30 specialists (experts in defence technology, policy advisers, members of various research institutes, scientists, military officers and legal experts) held four preparatory meetings in February, May, and August 1994 and finally in January 1995 and designed recommendations for the Vienna Review Conference later this month to be discussed by all participating governments. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was named special rapporteur to the groups of experts, in view of its capacity as guardian of the Geneva Conventions and the international humanitarian law (IHL) which aim at providing protection and assistance to the victims of armed conflicts.

The 1980 U.N. Weapons Convention has the purpose of codifying and developing specific rules on the use of weapons, either by totally prohibiting the use of certain weapons, or by regulating their use, so that the customary principles of IHL on the use of weapons are given concrete expression in treaty form. However, in many respects this convention has not achieved its aim, not only because it has been insufficiently ratified or implemented, but also because in many ways it does not provide the means needed to prevent the excessive damage that is actually being caused in armed conflicts. In particular, the convention relies too extensively on regulating behaviour in relation to the use of certain weapons, which is frequently difficult to enforce, rather than prohibiting the use of certain

types of weapons altogether.

Anti-personnel landmines and the likely development of laser weapons in the future are definitely among the certain weapons that should be banned or their use is tightly restricted.

The use of landmines has in the past decades resulted in an acute human tragedy. Apart from the appalling number of casualties they cause, anti-personnel mines inflict the most horrific wounds, strike blindly at all human beings alike and continue to spread terror for decades after hostilities have ended.

More than 250 million landmines, including approximately 200 million anti-personnel landmines, have been manufactured over the past 25 years in more than 50 countries. According to U.N. estimates, landmines kill more children than soldiers. Around 800 lives, mostly civilians, are claimed by landmines every month and deprive many thousands more of limbs or eyesight. Many of these casualties occur years after hostilities have ceased. But still, more anti-personnel landmines continue to be produced at an average rate of 5 to 10 million per year.

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world, mostly civilians, have lost their limbs as a result of mine injuries. For many mine amputees, the price of an artificial limb is far beyond reach. According to an ICRC field evaluation, a prosthesis for a child should be replaced every six months, and for an adult every three to five years. A 10-year-old child with a life expectancy of another 40 to 50 years will need 25 prostheses. At a cost of \$125 per each prosthesis, a child will spend \$3,125 on artificial limbs in his or her lifetime. In countries where average incomes are only \$10-15 a month, it is easy to see why prostheses are considered a luxury.

The effects on community life can be devastating. With peace, communities already shattered by war must rebuild their homes

and villages, find new pastures and farmland, and seek out new markets for their goods. Yet, landmines can seriously hinder the ability of a country to rebuild its postwar economy. Landmines could be easily planted around vital economic installations during wartime, but the costly and time consuming clearing of landmines would delay the recovery of the economy, disrupt transportation, lessen exports and endanger economic development.

At the present, there are around 100 million anti-personnel mines littered throughout the world, 33 million of them are scattered in Arab and Islamic countries.

The U.N. has estimated the costs of clearance of \$300-\$500 per mine and up to around 1,300 years to clear a meaningful portion of the unexploded mines strewn worldwide. This mindless carnage could grow beyond any foreseeable control, perhaps quite rapidly, in the future in view of the threats of renewed hostilities in existing landmine-afflicted nations; the likelihood of increased ethnic and religious conflict around the world, and increasing involvement of more nations in landmine production and trade.

The ICRC is convinced that the only clear and effective means of ending the suffering inflicted on civilians by anti-personnel landmines is their total prohibition. As a matter of fact, any set of partial measures short of the total ban, fall far short of the goal of protecting civilians from the indiscriminate effects of mines and are likely to result in continued civilian carnage for many years to come. Therefore, the ICRC appeals for the support of its initiative to be presented at the coming review conference to impose a total and binding ban on the manufacturing and use of anti-personnel landmines.

The same should be equally applicable to blinding weapons, the produce of advance laser technology which has developed rapidly in recent years. Conse-

quently, within a few years, soldiers, police and even civilians may encounter a new and haunting force on the battlefield and on city streets — blinding laser weapons. Public abhorrence at the sight of poison-gas victims 80 years ago led to the 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibiting the use of chemical and biological weapons in warfare. Now is the time to act and prevent such a thrilling and very likely threat instead of waiting for a flood of blinded soldiers or civilians.

Therefore, it is significant to add the laser weapons on the agenda of the review conference. This could be the last opportunity to take preventive action, particularly since the widespread introduction and use of laser blinding weapons would dramatically and unnecessarily increase the level of long term suffering from warfare and the costs of treating casualties. The ICRC appeals to governments, ordinary citizens, military personnel, parliamentarians and organisations concerned with the protection of humanity to ensure that in 1995 intentional blinding is specifically prohibited under international law. The September 1995 review conference of states parties to the 1980 U.N. Weapons Convention presents a rare and probably unrepeatable opportunity to stigmatise blinding as a method of warfare and, thereby, prevent a new wave of unnecessary human suffering.

The review conference of the 1980 U.N. Weapons Convention — the first since the treaty came into force in 1983 — offers a unique opportunity to take such decisive restrictive and preventive action. As a matter of fact, there is a need for regular reviews of this convention to evaluate the effectiveness of its provisions and also take timely preventive measures in relation to new developments, whether entirely new weapons or new designs of existing weapons, that are likely to create weapons.

ICRC

Economy

AFM invigorated ahead of MENA

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turnover and prices at the Amman Stock Market edged up this week, with investor enthusiasm riding high ahead of this month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, brokers said Thursday.

The main gains were posted in the commercial banking sector as several banks have announced registering strong performances in the first eight months of the year.

Turnover for the week ending Thursday was JD 10.3 million, up nearly 10 per cent from the previous week and prices closed moderately higher.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said the general price index based on 60 major companies from among the 120 listed in the market closed at 160.4 points, up 0.7

points or 0.4 per cent higher for the week.

The market report said 4.6 million shares changed hands during the week under 4,001 contracts concluded during the week, and average daily trading registered JD 2.1 million compared with JD 1.9 million last week.

Commercial banks and financial institutions led sectoral trading with a volume of JD 5.36 million, followed by industrials with JD 3.61 million, the services sector with JD 1.2 million and insurance stocks with JD 160,000.

The banking sector index gained 1.2 per cent, insurance went down by 0.4 per cent, industrial declined by 0.6 per cent and services slipped by 1.5 per cent.

The week's business saw stocks of 90 companies changing hands; 28 of them closed for the week with gains while 50 slipped and the prices of 12 remained unchanged.

Brokers said investors were attracted by signs that the commercial banks would be doing booming business in financing projects in the country stemming from the Oct. 29-31 MENA summit.

"The effect of the recent Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) decision to allow local banks to lend in foreign currency from their foreign exchange deposits is showing strongly in the market now," said an AFM dealer.

According to CBJ officials, the move was aimed at letting local banks to gain better from their deposits held in foreign banks by using the funds to finance local projects with foreign participation.

Jordanian banks, which hold more than four billion dinars in total deposits, have about \$2.8 billion of the funds of foreign currency accounts.

U.S. issues new currency, old currency remains valid

THE U.S. Department of the Treasury announced on September 27 that new \$100 notes will be issued in early 1996. Lower denominations will be introduced later at approximately six-to-12-month intervals.

The Treasury Department also pointed out that, although the design change is being made for security reasons, only about one one-hundredth of 1 per cent of U.S. currency in circulation is found to be counterfeit and 90 per cent of all known counterfeit U.S. currency is seized before it reaches the public.

Federal Reserve banks are currently authorized to issue notes in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100.

The process of replacing old currency is fairly simple. When banks and other depository institutions need to replenish their supply of currency, such as when the public's need for cash increases during holiday shopping periods, these institutions

order the cash from the Federal Reserve and the face value of that cash is charged to their accounts at the Federal Reserve. In this way new currency can be introduced into the banking system and old currency removed.

In addition, as part of their responsibility for maintaining the physical quality of U.S. paper currency in circulation, each day the Federal Reserve and Department of the Treasury carefully scrutinize millions of dollars of deposits at Federal Reserve Banks. Worn or mutilated notes are removed from circulation and destroyed. Counterfeit notes are forwarded to the U.S. Secret Service, an agency of the Treasury Department.

The \$100 note is the most common foreign-produced counterfeit note and the \$20 note is the most common domestically produced counterfeit note.

Design changes

The most significant visual difference between the new notes and the old notes will be the portrait. The new note portrait will be larger, allowing more detail to be incorporated, and thus easier to recognize. Also, the portrait will be moved slightly off-center, which will provide room for a watermark that will depict the same historical figure as the engraved portrait. The watermark, which does not copy on color copiers, will have both darker and lighter areas when held up to the light. Moving the portrait away from the center, the area of highest wear, will reduce wear on the portrait.

The currency also will include concentric fine-line patterns that appear normal to the human eye but are difficult for current digital electronic scanning equipment to properly resolve. These scanners have been a counterfeiting threat because when used with advanced color copiers and printing equipment, they can produce fine detail reproductions, the department

said.

The ink used in the new notes changes color when viewed from different angles. It appears black when viewed directly and changes to green when the note is tilted.

Other pre-existing security features will remain. These include a thin thread or ribbon running through a bank note's underlying layers that glows red when held under an ultraviolet light, and microprinting that appears as a thin line to the naked eye but can be read with a low-power magnifier.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing will provide machine manufacturers with new notes so they can prepare vending machines, automatic teller machines and other cash-handling

equipment. While machine manufacturers will have to make modifications to accommodate the new bills, they will have a broader field of machine-readable features from which to choose to authenticate currency, the department said.

The department said that it cost about \$765,000 to develop the new design. In addition, each currency note costs slightly less than 4 cents to produce.

In 1995, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will produce about 9,000 million notes worth about \$129,000 million. About 95 per cent will replace unit notes and 5 per cent will support economic growth, the department said. United States Information Service.

G7 to promise more action to aid world economy

WASHINGTON (R) — Policymakers from rich industrial nations are expected to declare on Saturday that the crisis-prone world economy is on the mend and to promise that they will take further action to make sure it stays that way.

Officials from the powerful Group of Seven (G7) industrial nations said that will mean working together to keep the dollar strong and acting on their own to put their economies in better shape, in most cases by cutting bloated government budget deficits.

"We're going to see solid growth (in 1996)," U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said. "But anybody who is complacent simply doesn't understand (the outlook)."

The G7 gathering — which brings together finance ministers and central bank chiefs from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — will take place on the fringes of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The IMF has forecast that world economic growth will pick up next year to 4.1 per cent from 3.7 per cent this year and 3.6 per cent in 1994.

The outlook, though, did not always look so bright.

Earlier this year, a near financial meltdown in Mexico cast a pall over the economies of developing countries while a drooping dollar threatened to derail economic recoveries in Europe and especially Japan.

Both crises though ended up being contained without lasting fall-out on the world economy.

After coming to the brink of default on its foreign debts in January, Mexico said on Thursday that it was repaying \$700 million of the \$12.5 billion it borrowed from the United States as part of a \$50 billion international rescue package.

Meanwhile, the dollar has soared some 20 per cent against the Japanese yen since hitting a record low in April, helped by concerted buying on world foreign exchange markets by Japan, the United States and Germany.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said the stronger dollar should aid world growth by taking pressure off the hard-pressed Japanese economy and its exporters. A weaker yen makes Japanese goods more competitive on world markets, boosting corporate confidence there and reducing the risk of worker layoffs.

In an interview on Reuters Financial Television, the IMF

chief even said that a small further rise of the dollar would be welcome.

"The United States wants a strong dollar," U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers said. "It's something we're working with other countries to bring about."

The currency markets though are betting that the G7 will not put its money where its mouth is and back up its calls for a strong dollar with further dollar purchases in the currency market. That is one reason why the dollar slipped below 100 yen here on Thursday, from a high last month of close to 105.

Interviewed Thursday on CNN's Moneyline television programme, Mr. Summers though warned the markets against betting against the G7.

At their meeting on Saturday, G7 policymakers are also expected to discuss ways to combat future Mexico-style economic crises by establishing a \$50 billion war chest at the IMF.

The United States and its industrial nation allies are already committed to providing the IMF with \$25 billion in emergency funds. But they want to double that, partly through contributions from the emerging economic powerhouses of Asia.

Kuwait fund pays 6% cash for first half 95

KUWAIT (R) — First Investment Fund, the first Kuwaiti stock market investment vehicle open to foreigners, will pay a cash dividend of six per cent for the first half of 1995, fund Manager Kuwait Investment Company (KIC) has said.

KIC official Assad Al Benwan said by telephone the payout worth 1.5 million dinars (\$5 million) would be made next week.

The net value of the fund's assets rose by 11.8 per cent in the six months to June 30, finishing at 1.141 dinar (\$3.8) per unit compared to 1.020 dinar (\$3.4) per unit on January 1.

Mr. Benwan noted this had outperformed the Kuwait stock exchange price index which rose 8.8 per cent during the period.

Foreigners based either in

Kuwait or overseas may buy units in the fund, which invests in a basket of companies on the Gulf country's exchange. It is the country's first mutual fund and the first instrument to invest on the exchange to allow participation by foreigners.

Only nationals of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait may directly buy shares on the exchange.

Mr. Benwan said exchange activity and share values had risen due to a string of privatizations and hopes of an easing of settlement terms for longstanding private sector bad debt.

Mr. Benwan said between 800 and 850 investors had bought units in the closed-end fund launched in mid-1994 to create investment

opportunities for small investors.

The fund has a capital of 25 million dinars (\$83 million), a 15-year term and permits investors to redeem their holdings five years after launch of the fund.

The fund is listed on the exchange and KIC has said it trades at a slight discount to the net asset value per unit. There is a management fee of 1.125 per cent, KIC has said.

The custodian of the fund is Kuwait and Middle East Financial Investment Company, a subsidiary of Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East B.K.M.E. K.E. The net asset value of the fund stood this week at 1.277 dinar (\$4.25).

'Iraq, Russia discuss oilfield development'

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi oil delegation is in Moscow to follow up on contracts signed last April for the development of Iraqi oilfields, the official newspaper Al Iraq said on Friday.

The delegation, headed by Deputy Oil Minister Faiz Shahin, is in Moscow at the invitation of the Russian government and Russian oil companies, the report said.

"His visit was to follow up the fulfillment of the agreement signed between the two countries and the technical appendices of oil contracts," said the story written from Moscow.

"He (Shahin) added that negotiations were carried out fruitfully with the Russian energy minister

and a number of specialized oil companies, including the execution of the agreement to develop the oilfields of Gharb Al Qurna One and Two, and other projects included in the agreements."

Last April, Iraq announced it had signed a deal with Russia to further develop two giant oilfields in southern Iraq — West Qurna and north Rumaila — which have the potential to produce one million barrels per day.

The agreement, which included other cooperation in the gas and oil industry, would take effect only after the end of U.N. sanctions imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't permit a private worry to depress you in the morning, and later this evening you can come to a better understanding with your mate.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Avoid a new contact who can be troublesome in the morning, and later this evening you have fine rapport with a business partner.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Avoid the public in the morning and later tonight plan your activities for the days ahead wisely so that you can expand.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Stick to plans made and don't go off on any tangents, and later today you can have a wonderful time, especially at amusements.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't disagree over some bill in the morning today, and then you can handle home affairs more wisely with your loved ones.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be very careful in motion in the morning while on the highway, and after lunch you can see good friends and enjoy hobbies together.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get your environment more as you prefer it to be in the morning today, then study financial affairs which are important.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Carry through with activities ahead of you and don't use time foolishly. This evening can be very pleasurable for you and loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't get flustered today if conditions are not as you want them to be at your home, and later tonight you can have fun with loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't make cutting remarks in the morning, and later this evening you can enjoy the company of good friends and fellow associates.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Early today be careful in spending money and then later tonight you can accomplish a good deal of success in the business world.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You may feel discontented in the morning but can soon go out later tonight and get into interesting outlets and you can become happy.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray

ACROSS

1 Money

5 Remove, as a hat

9 Med. sch. course

13 Golf club

14 Haggard of song

15 Temperate or torrid

16 Thrill

17 Rodrigo Diaz de Biver

18 "Laugh-In" comic Johnson

19 Lose firmness

20 "Cheers" comedienne

22 Acts of daring

24 Sally Field's Norma

25 Mrs. Kowalski

27 Thickening agent

32 City of France

33 Penned

34 Full of: suff.

35 Fit

36 Fishing device

37 Sub — (clandestine)

38 "O Sole —"

39 Stiffen

40 Like supermarket items

41 Carpenter's item

43 Elusive

44 Time period

45 Start of a Dickens classic

46 Comic's foil

51 Hallucinogen

54 Lifeguard's beat

55 Trompe — (painting style)

56 Tactic

57 Before: pref.

58 Papis

59 "Damn Yankees" girl

60 Bring up

61 — buco (veal dish)

62 Novelist Wister

DOWN

1 Osculate

2 Sector

3 Evangeline's creator

4 Goal

5 Removes, in printing

6 Killer whale

7 Impertinent

8 Join in a union

9 Flowering shrub

10 Average

11 Theater acronym

12 Adolescent

14 Zubin of music

20 Respiratory sound

21 Unusual

23 Fashion magazine

25 These can be grand

26 Shin bone

27 Come up

28 Part of GWTW

29 Robin — (Puck)

30 Black-link item

31 Prepared

33 Cysts

36 Harlem

37 Stir up

39 Moldings

40 Fictional sleuth

42 Doctor

43 Flat

45 Essential acid

46 Mast

47 Manner of speaking

48 Church tribunal

49 — d'oeuvres

50 Golf items

52 Only

53 Cannon of films

56 Arab gp.

Thursday's puzzle solved

LEAF PATTI DAMS
ELMO ACORN ELIA
TIMOTHY ICEBERG
TESTATE PALACES
AYE TUNAS
FINGERTIP TEMPS
ERIE NET MEDIAL
RED DENUDE ATE
INURED LEA SMEE
AESOP BALLPOINT
DARER WAN
COTERIE LOCATES
POINT OF RETURN
ANET DENIM ASTA
SASS EDENS SKIP

GIASBERGEN

"This skin lotion opens your pores. How much did you use?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

Everybody else went home hours ago!

WHAT THE HOSTS ENDED UP WITH AFTER THE PARTY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BUSKY THICK ABBUCT HECKLE
Answer: What the gamblers did on the crowded casino boat — STACKED THE DECK

Peanuts

WHO'S THE FELLOW IN THE BLACK HAT?

THAT'S JOE BLACKJACK, THE WORLD FAMOUS RIVER BOAT GAMBLER.

ARE WE GONNA TALK, OR ARE WE GONNA PLAY "OLD MAID"?

Andy Cap

LEAVE THE POOR LAD ALONE.

Mutt'n'Jeff

MUTT! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WAS HERE!

JEFF!

DID YOU JUST FINISH PLAYING? THE BEST GAME EVER! LOOK AT THAT!

WHA? CHA DO?

I JUST DID EIGHTEEN HOLES IN SEVENTY-TWO!

EIGHTEEN HOLES IN SEVENTY-TWO?

HECK, I DID SEVENTY-TWO IN NINE HOLES! — I ONLY HAD TO WALK HALF AS FAR!

Klinsmann fit for Germany's European qualifying double

BONN (R) — World Cup star Jurgen Klinsmann will be fit to lead Germany into two European Championship qualifiers within four days in the next week but the former world champions are still battling injury problems.

Klinsmann, knocked unconscious in a collision during a league match for Bayern Munich at the weekend, has recovered in time for Sunday's group seven clash with Moldova in Leverkusen.

But coach Berti Vogts was forced to omit injured midfielder Mario Basler and defender Stefan Reuter from the 18-man party due at their training camp near Bonn Thursday night.

Both players will miss Sunday's game and next Wednesday's qualifier against Wales in Cardiff where the Germans hope to make sure of their place at next year's finals in England.

"Stefan's withdrawal is tough since he is in such good form at the moment," Vogts said. "(but) if we win both games we are almost certain of making the finals in England."

Vogts has chosen a squad based around the country's top clubs, Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund. Dortmund's libero Matthias Sammer and striker Heiko Herrlich return to the squad after missing last month's 4-1 victory over Georgia.

As the qualifying stage moves into its crucial stage in the next month, Germany stand second in the

group, three points behind Bulgaria and four points ahead of third-placed Georgia.

Belgium look likely to go through as group winners to the 16-team finals. But the top six second-placed teams from the eight groups also qualify with the two teams from the other two groups playing off for the last place.

England complete the field as hosts.

Although Germany are well-placed to go through with ease, Vogts on Thursday hit out at the qualifying format under which only the results against the top four teams in the group count when the rankings of the second-placed teams are decided.

Under this system, Germany's results this week could become irrelevant if Wales and Moldova stay in fifth and sixth respectively.

"I don't like this system. It's not fair on these teams that their efforts have no influence at the end of the day," Vogts said. "You have to ask who thought up this system."

Germany squad: Goalkeepers: Oliver Kahn, Andreas Koepke. Defenders: Markus Babel, Thomas Helmer, Juergen Kohler, Matthias Sammer, Christian Ziege. Midfielders: Dieter Ehlts, Steffen Freund, Thomas Haessler, Andy Moeller, Mehmet Scholl, Thomas Strunz.

Forwards: Fredi Bobic, Heiko Herrlich, Ulf Kirsten, Jurgen Klinsmann, Stefan Kuntz.



Jurgen Klinsmann

After controversy, Italy gearing up for qualifying match with Croatia

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Following a war of words over the venue, Italy is gearing up for the real test against Croatia in a crucial qualifying match of the European Championship.

Sunday's match at Split, likely to decide the qualifiers of group four for the final round of the European competition, was preceded by a bitter controversy over Italy's initial reluctance to play in Croatia.

Claims by the Italian Soccer Federation that safety of players could be at risk in a warring country touched off irate protests by the Croat side. A UEFA ruling forced Italy to accept the original site of the match.

After much talking about safety, no special security was being planned by the Italian team for the trip to Croatia.

"I'm glad that it's time to think of playing," Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi said Thursday. "We are going to face a strong team and must concentrate on the game."

The dispute about the site was not the only problem for Sacchi before the match between the group leader and runner-up Italy.

The Italian coach was upset by the decision of Juven-

tus striker Gianluca Vialli to turn down the call for his return to the national team.

Meanwhile, key forward Roberto Baggio was sidelined by a thigh strain and centreforward Pier Luigi Casiraghi of Lazio was compulsorily dropped from the national team following a suspension received for his misbehaviour in a league game.

Italy, losing finalists Brazil in the 1994 World Cup final, enters Sunday's match with a record of 5-1-1 and 16 points — three points less than Croatia, which caused Italy's only loss in their first game in Palermo, Sicily.

"Croatia can play for a draw. We must seek a victory, to avenge the first-leg defeat and boost our qualifying chances," Sacchi said.

Sacchi's call for a victory seemed an indirect reply to suggestion by Croat captain Zvonimir Boban that a draw on Sunday would satisfy both sides.

The two top teams in each group qualify for the final round and Croatia and Italy are likely to finish 1-2 in Group Four, which also includes Lithuania, Ukraine, Slovenia and Estonia.

Italy completes its qual-

ifying round against Ukraine and Lithuania, both at home, in November.

Croat President Franjo Tudjman, whose policy in the Bosnian war was recently criticised by several Italian commentators, promised a "landslide of goals" against Italy as he announced plans to attend Sunday's "historic" match.

"No doubt that Croat fans will be wild against us," said Italian Soccer Federation President Antonio Matarrese.

The expected lineup for Sunday includes five players of the Turin team, including striker Fabrizio Ravanelli and rising star Alessandro del Piero.

Del Piero, who scored decisive goals in recent championships league matches against Borussia and Steaua, is Baggio's apparent heir both with Juventus and the national team.

The expected Italian lineup:

Angelo Peruzzi, Ciro Ferrara, Paolo Maldini (captain), Alessandro Costacurta, Luigi Apolloni, Demetrio Albertini, Angelo di Livio, Roberto di Matteo, Alessandro del Piero, Gianfranco Zola, Fabrizio Ravanelli.

Woman soccer referee wins right to officiate

LONDON (AP) — A 26-year-old woman has won a landmark settlement from an English Soccer allowing her to officiate matches.

Georgia Christoforou was awarded an undisclosed sum in an out-of-court settlement announced Wednesday after she took the South East Counties League to court.

"This is the first time that any football league has been required to operate a policy of selection which is fair and doesn't discriminate against women," said Jane Deighton, the woman's lawyer. "It's a milestone for women in football."

Christoforou had been turned down twice in her application to work as an official in the London-based youth league.

Clare Tomlinson, a spokeswoman for the English Football Association (FA) which runs the sport in England, said the FA might seek disciplinary action against the league. She said FA rules prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

Women soccer officials are rare in England. Tomlinson said there was only one woman among 284 referees and linesmen who work games in England's four most important leagues — the premier league and the first, second and third divisions.

She identified the lone woman as Wendy Toms, who began working first division matches last season as a linesman. Tomlinson said Toms had never worked in one of the top four leagues.

South East Counties League attorney Kenneth Goldman described the award as "modest" and said it was settled out of court to save expenses.

Bohinen joins Rovers

BLACKBURN, England (AP) — Norwegian international Lars Bohinen completed a £700,000 (\$1.1 million) transfer Thursday from Nottingham Forest to struggling Premier League champions Blackburn Rovers.

Because of an escape clause in the 29-year-old midfielder's contract, Blackburn saved almost £2 million (\$3.1 million) on the deal signed at Ewood Park.

In today's inflated transfer market, Forest would have expected a fee of around £2.5 million (\$3.9 million) for Bohinen.

Forest manager Frank Clark was furious at the circumstances of Bohinen's departure.

Asked why Bohinen had opted to leave, Clark threw a handful of coins onto a table and said, "I'm sure that's

why. I don't know of any other reason. They must have offered him more money than we did in our new contract."

"I have to say I'm disappointed in Lars, very disappointed. I feel let down. Betrayed might be a bit strong but I feel let down. I think our supporters will be as well because they loved him."

"We've been trying to negotiate a new contract with him for a long time — to get rid of the clause — but his demands were just totally over the top. The money he wanted to buy it out was totally unacceptable."

The deal has been shrouded in controversy, with rumours circulating that it involved Rune Hauge, the Norwegian agent banned by FIFA.

Arsenal seeking Juninho

LONDON (AP) — English Premier League team Arsenal is willing to spend up to £17 million (\$27 million) to land Brazilian star midfielder Juninho, reports said Thursday.

Juninho, called the next "Pele," wants to settle his future quickly and may accept a new contract from his Brazilian club Sao Paulo, the London-based Evening Standard reported.

Reports out of Brazil suggest Arsenal's Premier League rival Middlesbrough may be leading the hunt and has offered about £4.4 million (\$7 million) for the transfer.

Portuguese club FC Porto is also in the running with manager Bobby Robson having spent several days in Brazil trying to work out a deal.

Arsenal, tied for sixth in the Premier League behind leader Newcastle, would like to add Juninho at midfield with David Platt and Dutch international striker Dennis Bergkamp.

Cantona out of French national team

PARIS (AP) — Former captain Eric Cantona will not be a member of the French national team as the squad for the Oct. 11 European Championship qualifying match against Romania was named Thursday by the French Soccer Federation.

Aime Jacquet, the French coach, said before naming the squad that Cantona, Jean-Pierre Papin, Patrice Loko and Nicolas Ouedec would not be selected and Jacquet held firm to his word.

"I am obliged to expand my list to those players in form in the crucial sector: on the point of attack and the fact of the absence of Jean-Pierre Papin, Nicolas Ouedec and Patrice Loko," said Jacquet.

Papin, Ouedec and Loko have been sidelined recently with injuries and off the field problems.

Cantona has recently returned to competition after a suspension following his kung fu kick against a fan in January. He scored a goal and set up another in Manchester United's 2-2 draw Sunday against Liverpool.

Cantona was stripped of his national captaincy after the kung fu affair. France has suffered since then, having a

few scoreless draws before exploding for 10 goals against an outclassed Azerbaijan team.

Cantona was not a factor in the league cup against York. Manchester United was eliminated by the second division club.

Manager Alex Ferguson said Cantona is expected to play Saturday with United's reserve team against Leeds.

"We are hoping to play him. He needs match practice. His fitness is superb, but the more games he plays, the sharper he will get," Ferguson said.

The French side will have newcomers Marc Keller of Strasbourg and Michael Mader of Monaco as strikers, but neither is expected to play.

The French team: Goalies: Fabien Barthez and Bruno Martini. Defenders: Jocelyn Angolma, Eric di Meco, Franck Leboeuf, Bixente Lizarazu, Lilian Thuram.

Midfielders: Marcel Desailly, Didier Deschamps, Youri Djorkaeff, Vincent Guerin, Christian Karembeu, Zinedine Zidane.

Attackers: Christophe Dugarry, David Ginola, Marc Keller, Michael Mader, Reynald Pedros.

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4-	5.2	Accountant	B.Sc Commerce	5 years in the field
5-	8.1	Security and Industrial safety	university degree	5 years in the field
6-	7.2	Personal dep. Officer	University degree	5 years in UAE, with UAE valid driving licence
7-	12.1	Q.C. engineer	B.Sc Mechanical	5 years in the field applying ISO 9000
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DEERING-DO ACROSS THE GREEN RAZZ

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 443
♥ A7
♦ K85
♣ A Q 10 9 4

WEST
♠ A 10 8 5 2
♥ Q J 10 9 8
♦ Q J 10
♣ 7 2 3

EAST
♠ Q 9 8
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SOUTH
♠ K J 7
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♦ A Q 4 3
♣ K J

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♠ Pass 1♣ Pass
2♦ Pass 2♥ Pass
3♦ Pass 3NT Pass
4♦ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣.

This is really quite a simple hand, but it illustrates a very fine point of declarer technique. Cover up the East-West hands and decide how you would play six no trump after the lead of the jack of hearts.

You can be proud of your bidding. Once partner rebids clubs, you upgraded your king-jack in that suit and launched into Blackwood, intending to maneuver the contract into five no trump should partner have an ace too few. You wisely chose six no trump as the final strain to have the lead come up in

your tenaces.

When dummy comes down with a club fewer than expected, you can count only 11 fast tricks. The 12th could come from either a 3-3 diamond break or a winning guess in spades. First, which suit do you go after?

Chances of a diamond split are about one in three. You can't afford to test diamonds immediately because, if the suit doesn't divide evenly, the fourth diamond might be in the hand with the ace in spades. Guessing the spade position is a 50-50 proposition.

However, that doesn't mean that it is a pure guess which made you choose to play from hand when you lead low from dummy and East contributes a low spade. An expert will go up with the king for three sound reasons: the ace could be with East; if West does not have both the ace and queen, the defender might duck when you play the king; and if West does not return a spade when you get the chance to test the diamonds, or a squeeze might develop.

After capturing South's king of spades with the ace, West reverted to hearts. Declarer cashed out the heart and club winners, and East could not withstand the pressure. On the last club East let go of a diamond to retain the spade queen. Declarer discarded the jack of spades and raked in four diamond tricks to make the slam.

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"We are hoping to
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said.

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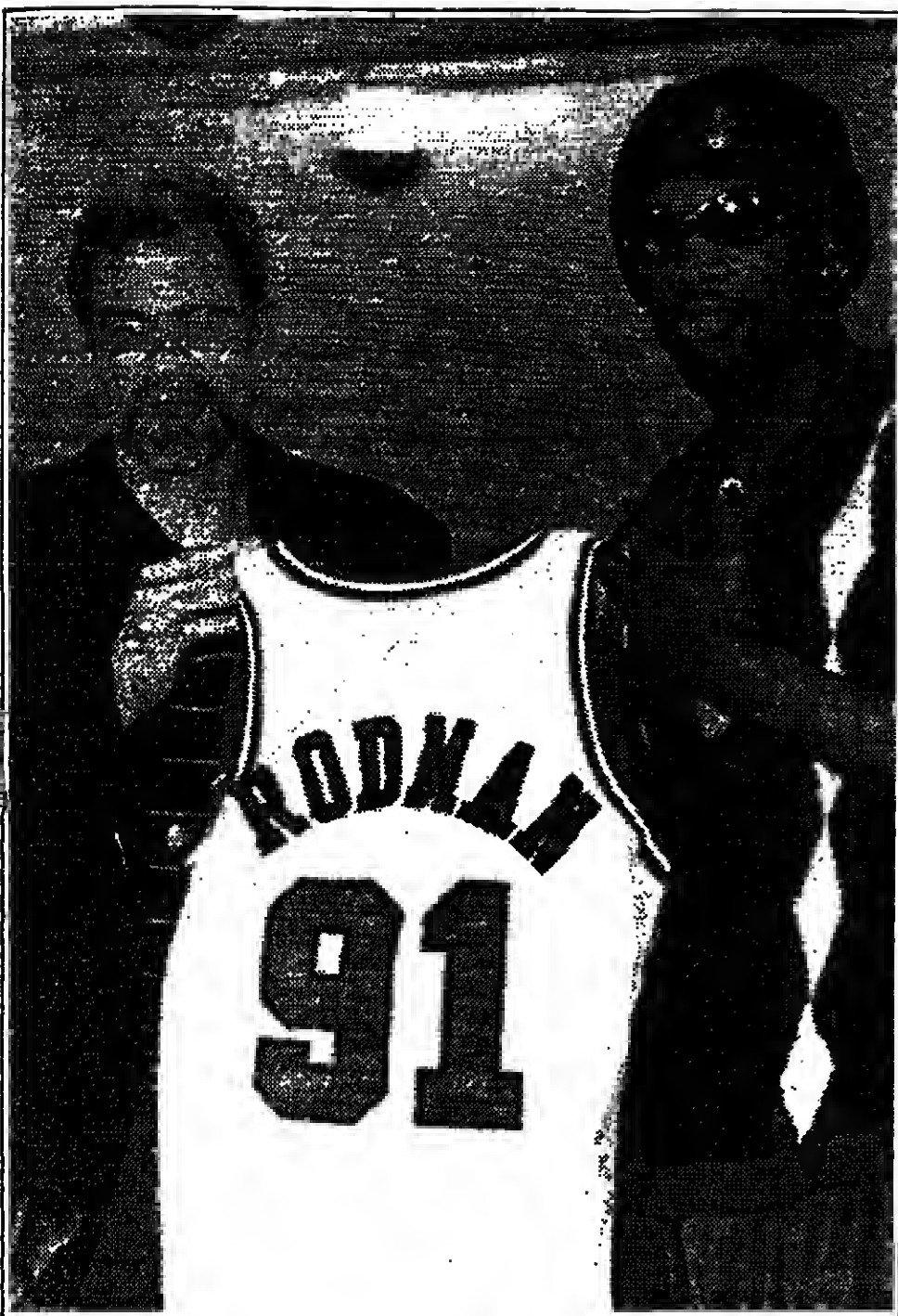
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RODMAN FOR THE BULLS: Chicago Bulls' coach Phil Jackson (left) and the newest Bull, Dennis Rodman (right), introduce the jersey number 31 which Rodman will wear as a Bull, at media day Thursday (Reuters photo)

Taiwan bars Magic's entry; agent claims mixed signals

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Earvin "Magic" Johnson's agent says there must be "mixed signals" in Taiwan, where a government health official announced the former basketball star has been barred from entering the country because he has the AIDS virus.

"Earvin has an official invitation from the president of Taiwan to visit with him there," agent Lon Rosco said today. "So obviously there are mixed signals."

Johnson is scheduled to arrive in Taiwan later this month with his "all-stars" team for two exhibition games.

Chang Po-Ya, director general of the Department of Health, said he decided to bar Johnson because Taiwanese laws prevent people who have major contagious diseases, including AIDS, from entering Taiwan.

Chen Cheng-Chung, owner of Taiwan's Hung Fu Rams basketball team, had said his team would play two games against Johnson's squad of former NBA stars, who were scheduled to arrive Oct. 30.

Cheo had said the purpose of Johnson's visit also includes educating people about AIDS.

Johnson, voted the American National Basketball

China takes men's team title

World Gymnastics Championships

SABAE, Japan (AP) — China, whipping ahead with crackling spins and precision flips, won its second consecutive men's team title Friday at the World Gymnastics Championships.

The Chinese started the optional exercises .012 point behind Japan and started immediately opening a lead, thanks to Fan Bin's 9.787 on the pommel horse. Japan, solid but not as spectacular, ended up three points behind — 566.619 to 563.558 — as it took the silver medal, its first team men's team medal since 1983.

The United States, third after the compulsory exercises that count for half the score, suffered a series of fluffs and falls that sent them slumping to ninth place at 558.784.

Romania won a duel for third place with Ukraine, finishing with 561.947. Ukraine, its ranks depleted by injuries at the end, slipped to fifth at 560.934.

Russia, 11th after problems in the compulsories, moved up to a fourth-place finish at 560.971. But it broke a string of eight gold and seven silver medals stretching back to 1954 by the Soviet Union and its Russian successor, which took a silver last year.

The top 12 teams qualify for next year's Olympics.

Rounding out the top 12 behind Ukraine were Belarus, Germany, South Korea, the United States, Bulgaria, Italy and France.

"Falling out of the top six, that's pretty disappointing for us," said four-time U.S. national champion John Roethlisberger, who finished eighth in qualifying for the 36-man individual all-around final on Sunday.

But he said the American gymnasts still felt as if they had performed well in the

lowed by Japan's Hikaru Tanaka at 113.737. Tanaka scored a 9.787 on the parallel bars, matching China's China's fan for the night's high mark.

Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus, the 1993 world champion and winner of six gold medals at the 1992 Olympics, stood third at 113.648 after a 9.762 on the parallel bars and 9.750 on the horizontal bar.

Next came Italy's Yuri Chechi at 113.249, Germany's Valeri Belenki at 113.149, Japan's Yoshiaki Hatake at 112.886, Bulgaria's Jordan Jovtchev at 112.849 and Roethlisberger at 112.812.

Indurain aims for world double

DUITAMA, Colombia (R) — Miguel Indurain may have already won the road time trial world title but it is victory in Sunday's road race that he craves most of all.

He faces a stiff challenge from Colombian rider Oliverio Rincon, who grew up cycling on the roads around Duitama and is used to the altitude of 2,800 metres above sea level.

Rincon will feel at home on a circuit which consists almost entirely of steep climbs and descents and is one of the toughest ever used for a world championship.

The circuit is so steep in parts that many photographers have decided against taking pictures of the riders from the pillion seats of motorcycles.

Indurain declined to take part in last month's Tour of Spain and sacrificed his holiday so that he could dedicate himself to training for Sunday's race, which closes the two-week world championships.

Wednesday's time trial win had been largely expected as Indurain is the undisputed king of the event. Sunday's one-day race, an event which can be something of a lottery, presents much more of a challenge.

Despite winning the Tour de France five times, the closest Indurain has come to winning the world road race title was two years ago in Norway when he was runner-up to Lance Armstrong of the United States.

Indurain, 31, has said that adapting to the altitude will be more important than tactics.

Esperance to host Afro-Asian decider

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Deposed African champions Esperance of Tunisia seek a consolation prize Saturday when they host defending champions Thai Farmers Bank in the Afro-Asian Club Championship decider.

The first leg was drawn 1-1 in Thailand seven weeks ago with Abdelkader Ben Hassen giving the visitors an early second-half lead and Woorawoot Srimaka levelling near the end.

Esperance were presented with a golden opportunity to regain the lead in injury time when one of their forwards was sent sprawling, but penalty taker Haythem Abid saw his shot saved by Nipon

Malanont.

The result has established the Tunisians as favourites to follow in the footsteps of previous champions Daewoo Royals, Zamalek, Al Ahly, Entente Setif, Club African and Wydad Casablanca.

Last year, Farmers Bank proved their mettle by restricting Egyptian Giants Zamalek to a 2-1 victory in Cairo and winning their return match 1-0 to lift the trophy on the away-goal rule.

Esperance, one of the oldest and most popular clubs in Arab football, desperately need a boost after surrendering the domestic championship and cup to CS Sfaxien, and losing the continen-

tal title.

Paired with Ismailia of Egypt in the champions' cup quarter-finals last month, the Tunisians conceded a late goal to lose at home and even a creditable away draw could not save them. The exit has placed unexpectedly early pressure on Amilton Barreto, the Brazilian coach who recently took charge of the Tunis club when Faouzi Benazart was lured to Saudi Arabia.

Although founded only eight years ago, Farmers Bank have lifted the Asian title twice in succession, defeating Oman club of Oman 2-1 and Al-Arabi of Qatar 1-0 last year.

However, the Thais allowed the inaugural Asian Super Cup to slip from their grasp during August, conceding two late goals against Yokohama Flügels in Japan to fall 4-3 on aggregate.

Forward Natipong Sritong-In, 22, who spent 19 years in France, including four with lower division club Noisy Sec, is the star of Farmers Bank and may switch to the Japanese J-League.

Chanvit Polchivon, 41, a former national star who was voted 1994 Asian Football Confederation coach of the year, attributes the success of his part-time players to hard work and a professional attitude.

Top three Dutchmen eliminated in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Dutch tennis hopes collapsed here Friday night as top-seed Richard Krajicek was ambushed 6-2, 6-4 in the Salem O'Peo by Italian Cristiano Caratti.

Krajicek's fellow countrymen Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis were also shown the exit in Friday's quarter-finals. Caratti, with a world ranking of 161 to Krajicek's 13, had the Dutchman struggling to keep the ball in play before he dished out a series of lightning returns to score the upset victory.

Krajicek admitted that he was outplayed by Caratti, who rose as high as 26th in world rankings before falling ill with a virus and tumbling through the rankings.

"I've got to give him credit, he punished me with everything," said Krajicek. "He played so fast."

"It felt like I hadn't even finished my service motion before the crowd was clapping for the end of the point. He's a tough player."

Caratti refused to call the win one of the best in his career.

"I beat Michael Stich last year when he was number two in the world, I beat Richard in 1991 and I beat John McEnroe on grass," he said. "But this was a good

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Iraq assails U.S position, demands end to sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq's foreign minister has blasted the United States for supporting U.N. sanctions against his country and accused a handful of nations of seeking to monopolise power in the United Nations.

The Security Council imposed sanctions, including a ban on oil sales, on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Council members, led by the United States, say Iraq has not met conditions for a lifting of sanctions, which include the full disclosure of Baghdad's programme of weapons of mass destruction.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf, in a speech Thursday to the General Assembly, reiterated Iraq's view that it has complied with all conditions for a lifting of sanctions.

"Despite all the propaganda, Iraq does not have any proscribed weapons, equipment, machines or material," Mr. Sahaf said.

He rejected the "hegemony of one or certain parties over the international community," and said, "we see that American statesmen are unfortunately ignorant of the facts of the region."

Iraq's disclosures have been piecemeal, and extracted only after the protracted effort of U.N. weapons monitors since Gulf war. In July, Iraq admitted for the first time having germ weapons stockpiles, including anthrax and botulinum culture.

The information came after U.N. inspectors found 35,000 litres of biological agents. In August, Iraq disclosed an ambitious biological weapons programme. It admitted having 199 missiles and bombs tipped with germ warfare agents and a crash programme to make a nuclear weapon.

"Concealing such informa-

tion has been the consistent policy of the Iraqi government from 1991 until today," U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright responded later. "Not a single member of the Security Council agrees with the assertion... that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations."

"Iraq is seeking to turn its disregard for Security Council resolutions into a bilateral issue between Iraq and the United States," she said.

Mr. Sahaf, in apparent criticism of the West, said there had been "ill-intentioned exaggerations" about the danger of Iraq's weapons programme and stressed that they were now defunct.

Ms. Albright rebuked him during the right of reply session at the end of the day, saying that sanctions against Iraq are the wishes of all members of the Security Council, and that Iraq cannot be trusted.

"This is not the United States' position; this is the United Nations' position," she said.

"Iraq's continued refusal to return stolen Kuwaiti property, to account for missing Kuwaitis, to end its support for terrorism, and to cease the repression of its citizens, shows its contempt for the United Nations, its lack of peaceful intentions, and the impossibility of the Security Council being able to trust Iraqi promises," Ms. Albright said.

The U.S. delegation did not attend Mr. Sahaf's speech, nor did three-fourths of the assembly, but it turned up later for rebuttal. Observers said the Iraqi delegation, which then retorted with its own stinging response, left fuming.

"All the facts affirm the need to call upon the United States and no one else to prove its peaceful intentions and credibility, to desist from acts of provocation, aggres-



Mohammad Al Sahaf

sion, interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and fomenting tension in the Gulf region under the pretext of an illusory danger," Mr. Sahaf had said during his appeal.

He said sanctions have "become in fact an extension of a unilateral policy of a superpower which made sanctions an end in themselves and a vindictive order for the achievement of its interests in the region."

Mr. Sahaf called the humanitarian crisis resulting from the sanctions "tragic," particularly for women, children and the elderly.

"I would like to express our strong regret for a priori ill-intentioned exaggerations which cast a terrifying nature on the past Iraqi weapons programmes, and the deliberate distortion of the facts, that these programmes were something of the past and that they no longer exist," Mr. Sahaf said.

His call came ahead of next week's expected release of a biannual report from the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on dismantling Iraq, which is to be presented

to the U.N. Security Council, along with an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report. They are due to be presented to the council on Wednesday and discussed on Friday, diplomats said.

Western diplomats say the UNSCOM report by its chairman, Rolf Ekeus, will likely be negative, notably because of recent revelations that Iraq had hid a biological weapons programme.

There is no chance that sanctions against Iraq will be lifted in the near future, they said.

Mr. Sahaf did not mention a proposal made in April — U.N. Security Council Resolution 986 — allowing Iraq to export limited quantities of oil under U.N. control in exchange for food.

Iraq so far rejected the measure, saying it infringes on national sovereignty. Mr. Sahaf did not mention the food-for-oil proposal in his speech, but rejected it in interviews.

Iraq on Thursday denied a report that its officials had pleaded for partial oil sales.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported on Monday that some Iraqi officials had pleaded for accepting the measure because they did not expect U.N. sanctions to be lifted before the U.S. presidential election in November 1996.

"The conclusions published in this (weekly) are false because they are founded on wrong information," the Information Ministry said in a statement.

"These reports are inspired by parties that don't want to stick to their commitment to apply paragraph 22 of (U.N.) Resolution 687," it said.

Under Resolution 687, the oil embargo can be lifted when U.N. experts certify that Iraq has dismantled its programmes for weapons of mass destruction.



END OF A COUP: French veteran mercenary Bob Denard surrenders to French troops on Thursday outside an army base in the Comoros. The French special forces, which put down the coup Mr. Denard led in the Comoros, arrested him and flew him to France (see page 5). Photo below shows "Captain Efix," a member of the Denard-led mercenary force that staged the coup, being taken away after his surrender (AFP photo)



Junblatt ousts Gaith as leader of Lebanon Druze

BEIRUT (AP) — Army troops have been deployed in a mountain town in central Lebanon after a crisis in the minority Druze sect threatened to degenerate into street violence.

The split within Lebanon's 200,000-strong Druze community, whose sect is an offshoot of Islam, came after former warlord Walid Junblatt ousted spiritual leader Sheikh Bahjat Gaith.

Sheikh Gaith, who enjoys the support of some Druze politicians, has refused to step down.

He has filled, but only in acting capacity, the position of "Sheikh Al Aql," the sect's highest religious position, since the death in the mid-1980s of Mohammed Abu Shaqra. Sheikh Gaith has since been running the sect's religious affairs and on occasions voiced political views.

Mr. Junblatt, also minister of the displaced, chaired a meeting Thursday of Druze

notables at Baqila, a major town in the Druze-inhabited Shouf mountains, which declared as vacant the position of "Sheikh Al Aql."

Shops in Baqila were closed Thursday as residents heeded a call for a strike to protest a visit there by Sheikh Gaith.

"We will not bow except to God," declared the white-bearded Gaith defiantly at a school graduation ceremony held in the town.

"We shall remain," he declared as helmeted army soldiers deployed on the streets around the venue of the graduation ceremony to keep his supporters and critics apart.

The army command said it had no reports of violence. The reason behind Sheikh Gaith's removal was not known, but Mr. Junblatt has apparently been miffed that Sheikh Gaith has taken a political line different from his and attempted to encroach on his role as the main representative of Druze in-

terests in the government.

Prominent Druze who sided with the ousted Gaith include legislator Talal Arslan, leader of the Lebanese Druze, and Parliament Member Faisal Daoud, a notable from Druze-inhabited southern Lebanon.

The dispute within the Druze sect comes at a time when Lebanon's four million people were trying to heal the wounds of the 1975-90 civil war which claimed 150,000 lives.

It also follows the surfacing recently of differences between the Junblatt and Arslan clans which make up Lebanon's Druze sect.

While making up only five per cent of Lebanon's population and mostly live in remote mountain regions, the Druze carry a political weight that belies their numbers.

Mr. Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party fielded one of the largest militia during the civil war.

Bardot writes to Mandela to save elephants

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Brigitte Bardot has written to South African President Nelson Mandela criticising the killing of elephants and rhinoceros in the Kruger National Park, a statement from her foundation said here Tuesday. The former French actress, who now dedicates herself to promoting animal welfare, spoke out against the hunting of the white rhinoceros and the killing of elephants in South Africa's biggest wildlife reserve. She wrote: "South Africa has been notable for its eagerness to relaunch the ivory market. You have succeeded in reopening hunting for the white rhinoceros, thus condemning the species... I will do my utmost to avoid the same thing happening to the elephants." Kruger National Park culls several hundred elephants each year to avoid overpopulation which damages the environment in the park. The national parks' management launched an international appeal for funds in September to pay for transferring excess elephants to other parks.

Tourists barred from Chinese monkey island

HONG KONG (AFP) — The spread of a strange lung disease has forced the authorities to close a monkey island in southern China's Hainan province to tourists, a report said. Ninety per cent of monkeys at the popular tourist attraction in Nanwan were found by scientists to be suffering from "pathological changes" in their lungs, the Hong Kong branch of China News Service said. The decision to close the site was to prevent the unspecified illness spreading to humans and other wildlife.

Charlie Chaplin's son plans cultural centre in Soweto

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Eugene Chaplin, the businessman son of film legend Charlie Chaplin, is planning to build a cultural centre in Soweto, South Africa's largest majority town, the economic daily Business Day said. Eugene Chaplin entertainment is planning to spend 1.6 billion rand (around \$450 million) on the centre which will include a cinema complex, multi-media hall, bookshop and cafe and restaurant. Planning work has already started on a 200 hectare (500 acre) site in the Eikenhof district of Soweto, an area known for its lack of infrastructure. Mr. Chaplin, 42, sketched out the initial plans for the centre with a Soweto-based business during a visit to South Africa earlier this year. The businessman, who lives at Montreux in Switzerland in a house inherited from his father told Business Day he wanted the centre to preserve the "cultural, economic and social values my father pursued for 50 years."

Million dollar car stolen at gas station

GILLINGHAM, England (AFP) — A Renault luxury sedan with a prototype engine and a £600,000 (\$930,000) price tag was stolen at a highway gas station Tuesday night, police said Wednesday. The blue Safrane was being transported by truck from Renault's headquarters in France to a test site at Peterborough, central England. "The driver was taking refreshment and the car just went," said a police spokesman. He said both car and truck were taken.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Multiple murderer may be deported to France

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Multiple murderer Charles Sobhraj, wanted for a string of crimes across Asia, may be deported to France after the cases against him are disposed of, the Press Trust of India said Friday. The news agency, quoting unidentified Home Ministry sources, said the 51-year-old Sobhraj, a French national, would be deported as he did not have either a valid passport or a visa. Sobhraj has been convicted on only one of the eight cases registered against him. The other seven pending cases are bailable, the sources said, including a daring jailbreak from New Delhi's high-security Tihar penitentiary for which Sobhraj has been held in solitary confinement for nine years. Sobhraj's lawyer, Debashish Mazumdar, however, declined to comment on the report. A spokesman for the French embassy here said the embassy "had not, at this stage, been informed by the Indian authorities."

French test site gets clean bill of health

BRUSSELS (AFP) — European Union (EU) experts on radiation hazard have given France's nuclear test sites in the South Pacific a qualified clear bill of health but did not reach all the sites, according to a preliminary report obtained by AFP. The three scientists charged with evaluating the measures France has taken to protect the population of Polynesia, where the test sites are located, said they were "satisfied on the whole." France has detonated two nuclear test devices within the last month. Two of the French test sites, however, at Fangaitua and Faao, were closed to the scientists, who said they could therefore not collect samples in order to evaluate environmental impact. A final report will be submitted next week to the EU Council of Ministers.

Dirt from Egyptian oasis stronger than metal

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian airport officials barred a Japanese scientist from travelling with samples of dirt from a desert oasis which he said could be used to make car parts stronger than lead, the daily Al Akhbar said on Friday. Officials discovered two jars containing eight kilograms of dirt in the bags of the unnamed man. The Japanese told them it came from Siwa Oasis, the furthestmost oasis in Egypt's western desert, 800 kilometres west of Cairo. The man said he had performed preliminary tests on the grey dirt which revealed it could be used to make car gears and mechanical parts "stronger than lead." He was on his way to the company where he worked in Germany for more tests. Officials forbid him from taking the samples after the airline company discovered traces of sulfur in them and deemed the jars "potentially dangerous." The Japanese left on his flight, promising to return to Siwa to conduct further experiments. Al Akhbar said.

Aided pardons foreign fishermen

MOGADISHU (AP) — Eleven Pakistanis and a Palestinian sentenced to five years each for illegally fishing in Somali waters were pardoned Thursday by General Mohammad Farah Aideded, his radio station said. The 12 were convicted earlier this week by a court established by Gen. Aideded after he had himself appointed president of Somalia by a group of supporters in July. He and his government have not been recognised by any other nation. His south Mogadishu radio station said Gen. Aideded granted the pardons after the court received an appeal for clemency from the government in Islamabad. The prisoners were released Friday.

Israel to get new navy chief

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's general staff has appointed Alex Tal to take over as commander of the navy, replacing Admiral Ami Ayalon, who is retiring after 32 years of service, the armed forces announced Friday. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who also serves as defence minister, approved the appointment of Vice-Admiral Tal. He is to be promoted to admiral and take over in several months.

Rafsanjani: China nuclear deal still on

HANOI (Agencies) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Friday that a deal involving the sale of nuclear reactors from China to Iran was still being negotiated with Beijing.

Mr. Rafsanjani, speaking during a visit to the Vietnamese capital, said negotiations over the site, price and time schedule for the deal were still in progress.

United States officials said last week that Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen had given an assurance during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that the deal would not go forward.

However, Chinese officials later put a different interpretation on events saying China had "suspended for the time being" its nuclear reactor sale to Iran.

"What the Chinese have said could not be construed as suspension of a deal," Mr. Rafsanjani said at a news conference.

"They (the Americans) are rushing to baseless conclusion," he added. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said on Wednesday: "We have re-

ceived every indication... that China will not go forward with this deal."

After meeting Mr. Christopher in New York, Mr. Qian said: "China once signed a contract with Iran concerning construction of two nuclear reactors."

"However, due to problems with selection of the site, because the original site was not appropriate, this contract has been suspended for the time being."

But later during a visit to London, Mr. Qian said the deal was still on for the transfer of two 300-megawatt light water reactors but it had been delayed for technical reasons.

Mr. Rafsanjani, in Hanoi for a four-day state visit, said the "price and time schedule for the reactors have not been cleared up yet."

"This matter comes from an agreement signed between me and the president of China, (Jiang Zemin), during a visit to that country," he said.

The United States has tried to deter China and Russia from selling nuclear technology to Iran, saying Tehran cannot be trusted not to attempt to build nuclear weapons.

Egypt, Israel agree to probe PoW killings

CAIRO (AP) — Israel has agreed to investigate the reported killings of as many as 1,000 Egyptian prisoners of war (PoW) in the Arab-Israeli wars and put those found responsible on trial, a leading Arabic-language newspaper reported Thursday.

The agreement was reached between President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during a meeting last week in Washington, where they attended the signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, the London-based Al Hayat newspaper said.

A senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that the PoW issue was discussed at the meeting, but that Israel had not responded to an Egyptian request for an investigation.

Aliza Goren, a Rabin spokeswoman, said the Israeli prime minister had promised to look into the

issue, but added: "I don't know of any formal or informal investigation."

If true, the deal would constitute a significant concession by Israel, which has until now refused to investigate the killings in the 1956 and 1967 wars. In August, Israel's attorney general ruled that too much time had passed to prosecute the soldiers.

Egypt similarly has sought to cool the dispute, calling the Egyptian-Israeli wars a thing of the past. But opposition groups have kept up the pressure on the government to take action.

Al Hayat, quoting unidentified Egyptian sources, said the two countries agreed that Israel would form a military committee that would investigate the killings and that those found responsible would be tried, probably in Israel.

At the same time, Egypt would file a suit in Israel, seeking compensation for their deaths, the newspaper said.